
Subject: Re: How can I read data file with tab delimiter?
Posted by [M.W.Gardner](#) on Thu, 11 Jan 1996 08:00:00 GMT
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ashi@acacia.lle.rochester.edu (Alexei Chirokikh) wrote:

> Hi,
> I have column organized data with TAB - delimiter. How can I read this data?
>

Assuming your data is organised in a consistent manner (i.e. all rows and columns contain the same number of data points) then this is really easy..

Assume your file is organised with 5 columns and 4 rows and contains floating point data.

The IDL code to read this into the array my_data is as follows

```
my_data=fltarr(5,4) ;define array of correct dimensions and type
openr,lun,'my_tab_file.dat',/get_lun ;open file
readf,lun,my_data ;read data into array maintaining structure in file
close,lun ;close file
free_lun,lun ;free logical file unit
```

IDL can read tabs as multiple space delimiters - you do not have to specify the fact that the delimiter is a tab.

Hope that helps - if not get in touch.

Matt

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opinions are mine - <http://www.uea.ac.uk/~e449>
