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Subject: Re: Reading a set of data with string type entries

Posted by [rkombiyil](#) on Fri, 30 Nov 2007 12:53:32 GMT

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On Nov 30, 2:44 pm, mystea <idllear...@gmail.com> wrote:

> Dear all,

>

> I need to read in a large set of data. Each entry is started with a

> name, followed by many numbers.

> The numbers are separated by spaces, but the length of each number is

> not fixed.

>

> My problem is like this: Since the data starts with a string, I can't

> use free-format readf (because by default, the string slot will read

> the whole line.) and due to the unknown length of numbers, I can't use

> a format code, either.

>

> What should I do?

>

> Gene

Don't know if one has to resort to regex... I suggest using "structures" to read variable length data as "string variables and specify format as floats". I use this method to read satellite data where the length of the "same datum" is "not fixed."

For example, I have used the following and worked for me. The "a" format is where the variable length numbers are ---> so I counted the total number of spaces from the end of one datum to end of, and including the next datum, which is variable - and this space is "fixed" (this fixed space is specified by the "a" format, and when you declare them as floats, you get the variable length datum only, minus the empty spaces). So count the space separating and including the variable length datum :)

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```
fmt='(2(i2,1x),i4,2(1x,i2),7x,2(a15),a16)'
```

followed by the record structure

```
record={dd:0L,mo:0L,yyyy:0L,hh:0L,mm:0L,AA:0.0,BB:0.0,CC:0.0 }
```

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Then the whole datafile consisting of various records can be read, each with the same format as above.

Hope this helps,

/rk

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