Subject: Format codes for comma separated data
Posted by Brian Larsen on Thu, 20 Dec 2007 20:05:24 GMT
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Hello all,

I must be slow today but I can't figure this out. I have huge ascii files that are all comma separated. I am currently reading them in line by line and splitting them with strsplit(), this solution worked but now I have files that have a line every 30s for 13 years and I am not that patient.

I found this really old post saying you don't need to worry about the commas but it doesn't seem to work for this data, I think the reason is that some are strings and others floats.
http://groups.google.com/group/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/browse_frm/thread/960754afec3a8169/efd7a2182fe40447?lnk=gst&q=format+with+commas#efd7a2182fe40447

What I normally do is create a struct array and read a file into that with each column having a structure tag so I can stay organized. But I can't figure out the format codes to do that this time...

The data looks like this:
126489604,1996-01-04T00:00:04 ,01/04/96 00:00:04, 19061, 23, 2, 3, 7.009E+03, 3.536E+02, 6.361E+01, 6.481E+02, -3.545E+02, 3.095E+03, 6.279E+03, -3.162E+00, 6.081E+00, -3.085E+00, -9.772E-01, 2.088E-01, 3.757E-02, -2.047E-01, -8.816E-01, -4.254E-01, -5.570E-02, -4.234E-01, 9.042E-01, 6.150E+02, -4.040E-02, 2.000E+00, 7.046E+03, 7.994E+01, 6.333E+01, 1.819E-01, 5.307E+00, 3.935E-01, 1.452E-01, 6.427E+01, 6.665E+01, 6.318E+01, 8.319E+01, 4.845E-02, -2.560E-01, -2.949E-01, -3.796E-01, -1.017E-01, -1.900E-02, -1.785E-02, 5.315E-02, -2.967E-01, -4.012E+02, 2.855E+02, 1.946E+02, -1.058E+01, -7.476E+01, 7.141E+03, 6.264E+01, 1.304E+02, 4.168E+01, ...

where the ... is about 1/2 way down the 134 columns in each line.
I tried the obvious:
IDL> dat = strarr(134,3)
IDL> readf, lun, in, dat
and
IDL> dat = create_struct('d1','','d2','', 'd3','', 'orbit', 0, 'num', 0)
IDL> readf, lun, in, dat

But the whole line ends up in each string element but the integers seem right...

How do I need to think about this differently?

Cheers,

Brian

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