Subject: Re: reading format data
Posted by hahn on Thu, 11 Jul 1996 07:00:00 GMT
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Hon Yee <yeek@boulder.colorado.edu> wrote:

> in my data file there are empty lines. I read data as structures, and
> and empty line gives values of zeros. How can avoid empty lines, or
> ignore them soon i don't have returning zeros. could someone help
> out,please?. Thank in advance.

There are several way to approach a solution, depending on the size
of your data sets and the amount of disk space.

Assumption 1: Each record is delimited by LF or CR LF or some other
delimiter. Then an empty record will be made up of two delimiters.
a) You can use some stream editor to replace two adjacent delimiter
by one. However, you have to the data twice on the disk during
compression.
b) If the data in the file is printable, you read your data set record
by record into a string variable. If the string variable is not
empty you read your structure from the string.
c) If the data is binary, no conversion will be required. Thus you
cannot READ from the buffer but need to transport the data
without conversion.
Assumption 2: There are no delimiters but fixed length records.
a) You can use some stream editor to replace the fixed length
blank records by nothing. This again requires storing the data
set twice on the disk.
b) You read your data set record by record into a string variable.
if the string variable is not empty you backspace the file and read
into the structure.

Example for Assuption 1 solution b:

```
stru = { ..... }  ; your data structure

OpenR, iunit, dsn, /get_lun  ; Open input file
buffer = '*'

while not eof(iunit) do begin
  readf, iunit, buffer
  if  StrLen ( buffer ) gt 1  then  ReadS, buffer, stru
end
```

Example for Assumption 1 solution c:

```
stru = { a:0L, b:fltarr(10), c:0B, d:'####' }  ; your data structure
```

```
OpenR, iunit, dsn, /get_lun  ; Open input file
buffer = '*'

while not eof(iunit) do begin
  readf, iunit, buffer
  if  StrLen ( buffer ) gt 1  then begin
     bbuffer = Byte(buffer)
     stru.a = long(bbuffer,0)
     stru.b = float(bbuffer(4:43),0,10)
     stru.c = bbuffer(44)
     stru.d = string(bbuffer(45:48))
  end
end
```

Example for Assumption 2 b)

```
stru = { ..... }  ; your data structure

OpenR, iunit, dsn, /get_lun  ; Open input file
buffer = '*'

while not eof(iunit) do begin
  point_lun, -iunit, pos           ; remember current file position
  readf, iunit, buffer
  if  StrLen ( buffer ) gt 1  then begin
     point_lun, iunit, pos      ; goto remembered file position
     ReadU, iunit, stru
  endif
end
```

Hope, this helps

Norbert
