
Subject: How to read data with format codes?

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Hi all, I've been pulling my hair out over using readf with a format code. So I have a data file with three columns of floats, all separated by a |. Here's an example:

```
| 355.9559189095| -79.4625574877| 0.279817 |  
| 355.5057979042| -79.4067330132| 0.189663 |  
| 359.5215546187| -79.7976864503| 0.161308 |  
| 357.7890741750| -79.6427829568| 0.026100 |  
| 354.7163524970| -79.3099884939| 0.026578 |  
| 354.6329916471| -79.3061286761| 0.025486 |  
| 0.0561720211 | -79.8234642170| 0.025670 |  
| 357.3786228505| -79.5728335169| 0.000030 |  
| 356.7569554568| -79.5138546776| 0.199416 |  
| 355.0388858964| -79.3264538270| 0.190393 |  
| 354.8099356150| -79.2912157538| 0.026006 |  
| 352.5968356937| -79.0184276231| 0.207497 |  
| 352.4362834602| -79.0094360366| 0.217226 |  
| 0.1800716026 | -79.8081762850| 0.091767 |  
| 359.0525340400| -79.7227001135| 0.205676 |  
| 354.7045386126| -79.2652363648| 0.119250 |
```

So every format code I've used which has even come close to working runs into issues at one point or another, probably because of the variable spacing. I want to read this file into three arrays, or a 3xlots array, or whatever - just any way to read in this data!! It's unbelievable that such a simple task is proving to be so difficult.

I won't bore you with all the format codes I've tried (none of which have worked) but here's the most recent example:

```
data=fltarr(3,rows-100);the 100 is so i don't run into EOF issues yet,  
just for testing  
readf,lun,data,format='(3(2x,F0.0))'
```

The problems with this particular one are that when the first column is longer (as in most of these examples), the minus sign doesn't get read in the second column, and there may be issues reading the third column (not sure; will look into it some more).

What's the appropriate way to read these data in?
