
Subject: Re: Reading complicated ASCII data
Posted by [Chris W](#) on Tue, 29 Jun 2010 18:36:38 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Jun 29, 8:05 am, Tone M R <tone...@gmail.com> wrote:

> Hi!
>
> I've been racking my brains and the web for the best part of a day,
> but have not managed to find anything useful to solve my problem,
> which is this:
>
> I've got an automatically generated .txt file of rainfall measurements
> which I need to read. I'm having trouble with the format of the file,
> which looks more or less like this:
> -----
> [block of not-so-interesting information]
>
> Date Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep
> Oct Nov Dec
> 1 0.5 1.4 . 4.7 . .
> 0.1
> 2 0.6 0.3 3.9
> 4.0 . .
> 3 5.8 1.6 4.9 0.1 3.1 3.4 4.4 0.2 0.9
> 1.4 .
> 4 2.0 5.1 1.9 0.2 0.5 6.7 3.3 . 1.1
> 0.1 .
> 5 6.8 0.6 9.7 . 2.7 0.8 1.6 2.4
> 0.7 . .
> ... and so forth, for an entire year. - a 13x31 table of floats.
>
> [new block of non-helpful stuff]
>
> [new block of data for another year]
> -----
> etc..., for a total of ten years.
>
> The table of figures is actually in straight columns, a column per
> month, with a dot wherever a measurement is zero. (There are also
> blank spaces at the bottom of each table, for dates such as feb 30th.)
> I've managed to work around the headers and identify where a table
> starts, and what I wanted to do was to read the entire thing into a
> nice structure array I've prepared. However, when using READF, IDL
> stops when trying to convert a dot to a float (understandably), and I
> haven't managed to solve it with a format code. I have thought about
> using STRSPLIT and WHERE to replace them, but then I have to go one
> line at a time, and I was rather hoping to make something a little
> more elegant.

>
> Does anyone see a way around these dots?

How about reading the whole file into one string,
Use strsplit and split at " . " (assuming those are spaces not tabs)
then strjoin with " 0 "

Chris
