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Subject: Re: Read ASCII File with tab seperator  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 02 Mar 2011 17:20:02 GMT  
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naoh writes:

```
> I'm trying to read an ascii file with tabs as seperator. The catch is
> that when the value equals zero, it is not actually written into the
> file. Example 1 gives the file as it should look like if zeros were
> present. Example 2 gives the actual file ('0' 'TAB' have been replaced
> by 'TAB' only).
> I've used the following code for example 1 but can't figure out how to
> read example 2 without messing the data up.
>   data = fltarr(4,4)
>   readf, lun, data
>
> Thank very much for your help!
>
> EXAMPLE 1:
> 1 0 0 0
> 2 0 10 10
> 3 0 12 12
> 4 0 10 10
>
> EXAMPLE 2:
> 1
> 2 10 10
> 3 12 12
> 4 10 10
```

Who in the world thinks up these bizarre data formats!?  
That would be a fun job. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. I don't know what to tell you, except that  
what you're trying ain't gonna work. :-)

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>  
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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