Subject: Re: Why doesn't this work?

Posted by davidf on Mon, 13 Jan 1997 08:00:00 GMT

View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Tim Abbott writes:

> Can anyone tell me why this doesn't work?
>
> I need to extract the four numbers from the string "[123:456,246:135]"
>
> Here is the code segment I'm trying to use:
> IDL> str = "[123:456,246:135]"
> IDL> reads,str,x1,x2,x3,x4,format='(4(1X,I0))'
> % Unable to apply format code I to input: "]".
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$
> IDL> print,x1,x2,x3
>   123.000   246.000   0.00000
> IDL> print,x1,x2,x3,x4
> % PRINT: Variable is undefined: X4.
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$
>
> Any ideas?

The main reason this doesn't work, I think, is that the READS
procedure and the I0 format require more carefully formatted
input than they are getting here. In particular, they really
don't know how to handle the colons.

You can get this example to work if you perform a little
bit of "processing" on the string to turn the colons into
commas.

I suggest something like this:

```
comma = 44B
colon = 58B
str = "[123:456,246:135]"
array = BYTE(str)
colonLocations = WHERE(array EQ colon, count)
IF count GT 0 THEN array(colonLocations) = comma
str = STRING(array)
READS, str, x1, x2, x3, x4, FORMAT='(4(1X,I0))'
PRINT, x1, x2, x3, x4
```

Yours,

David

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
2642 Bradbury Court, Fort Collins, CO 80521
Phone: 970-221-0438   Fax: 970-221-4762
E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com