
Subject: Re: reading in tab-separated string data
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 19 Apr 2012 12:45:05 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

timbovaird@hotmail.com writes:

> The .dat file opens in excel fine but I always get "READF: End of file
> encountered." when I try to read the table back into IDL. I have a
> similar table which uses floats instead of strings and it works fine
> so I'm not sure what is causing the problem.

The problem is that READF without a format statement starts reading a string and reads to the end of the line. It has no way of knowing when the string ends. So, if you are putting five of these strings on each line, IDL is reading this in a single line. Thus, you tell IDL to read 5 "things", it gobbles all the data up in 1 read, and then complains to you that it encountered the end of the file before finishing its job.

The solution will be to come up with some kind of format statement, if possible with this data. Or, you will have to read each line and separate that line into individual values (with READS or StrSplit, probably).

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
