Subject: Re: Reading formatted input with READS
Posted by Helder Marchetto on Thu, 01 Sep 2016 08:50:06 GMT
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On Thursday, September 1, 2016 at 5:27:19 AM UTC+2, Stefano Garcia wrote:
> Hello everybody,
>
> This is my first post so please let me know if I posted it in the wrong place.
>
> My problem is purely that I am not yet familiarized with the IDL formats. I would like to use READS to read what is in between the square brackets below:
>
> %M.z 20.37 [~] D 2011A&A...527A..78F
> %M.z 20.37 [0.12] D 2011A&A...527A..78F
>
> So, there is two cases, one when it is a STRING and the other, when it is a FLOAT.
>
> Is there a way to read that?
>
> I will appreciate any help.
>
> Thanks

Hi,
dunno how to use reads, but I do these sort of stuff with string functions. Not as elegant, but works. To check if the string between square brackets is a number or not, I use the isnumber() from Johns Hopkins University/Applied Physics Laboratory. You don't need the whole library. You can find it here: http://fermi.jhuapl.edu/s1r/idl/s1rlib/local_idl.html

```
IDL> str = '%M.z 20.37 [~]  D 2011A&A...527A..78F'
IDL> posStart = strpos(str, '[')+1
IDL> posEnd = strpos(str, ']')
IDL> print, strmid(str, posStart, posEnd-posStart)
~
IDL> print, isnumber(strmid(str, posStart, posEnd-posStart), value) gt 0
   0
IDL>
IDL> str = '%M.z 20.37 [0.12]  D 2011A&A...527A..78F'
IDL> posStart = strpos(str, '[')+1
IDL> posEnd = strpos(str, ']')
IDL> print, strmid(str, posStart, posEnd-posStart)
0.12
IDL> print, isnumber(strmid(str, posStart, posEnd-posStart), value) gt 0
```

I hope it helps.
Cheers,
Helder

PS: this is the right place for these questions