Subject: Formatted Reads of Arrays
Posted by wcapehar on Fri, 30 Jun 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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For ages I have had to use dummy variables to read formatted data into an array so that, for example,

```
for a loop value "i"

readf, 1, rplace, rvalue1, rvalue2, rcode1, rcode2, $
format='(A5,F5.3,I6,2A3)'

place(i) = rplace
value1(i) = rvalue1
value2(i) = rvalue2
rcode1(i) = rcode1
rcode1(i) = rcode2
```

If all the values were the same type, then I could just read them in as a big array block and then parse with wildcards. But the mix of characters and integers in this file requires the personal attention. Are there any tricks to do this more efficiently or at least drop the dummy variables?

Thanks much...

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Subject: Re: Formatted Reads of Arrays
Posted by promashkin on Wed, 05 Jul 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Bill,

I think than the simpliest thing to do is to read into strings and STRSPLIT, then convert data types. I also had success reading into structures. This works if the last part of lines is characters. If first fields of a structure are strings, then automated formatting for READF in IDL reads the whole line into a string and more sophisticated formatting was required.

Cheers,

Pavel

- > But the mix of
- > characters and integers in this file requires the personal attention.

- > Are there any tricks to do this more efficiently or at least drop the
- > dummy variables?