
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  
rcode2(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...
Bill

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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 simplest 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?
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