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Subject: READF data containing numbers and strings  
Posted by [Eric Vella](#) on Thu, 30 May 2002 01:39:00 GMT  
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I need to read data from a file which contain lines with mixed variables including strings, for example "1 2 text 3". I tried "READF, int1, int2, str1, int3", but str1 gobbles up the rest of the line, leaving nothing for int3. This happens even if I supply an explicit format like A4 for the string. I can read the entire line into a single string, but then how do I separate the variables? STR\_SEP does not work, since the separation character has to be a blank, and there can be multiple blanks between variables. I am hoping there is something simple I am missing (as is usually the case with IDL, simple only after you know the answer) ....

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Subject: Re: READF data containing numbers and strings  
Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Thu, 30 May 2002 02:15:23 GMT  
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"Eric Vella" <[eric.vella.remove@kla-tencor.com](mailto:eric.vella.remove@kla-tencor.com)> wrote in message  
news:3cf5821f\$1@nntp.kla-tencor.com...

> ...I can read the entire line into a single string, but then how do  
> I separate the variables? STR\_SEP does not work, since the  
> separation character has to be a blank, and there can be multiple  
> blanks between variables....

STRSPLIT can split on blocks of white space.

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Mark Hadfield            "Ka puwaha et tai nei, Hoea tatou"  
[m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz](mailto:m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz)  
National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)

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Subject: Re: READF data containing numbers and strings  
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Tue, 04 Jun 2002 06:22:42 GMT  
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Eric Vella wrote:

>  
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> including strings, for example "1 2 text 3". I tried "READF, int1, int2,  
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> character has to be a blank, and there can be multiple blanks between  
> variables. I am hoping there is something simple I am missing (as is  
> usually the case with IDL, simple only after you know the answer) ....

Dear Eric

here is a small program which should explain itselfs.

pro test

```
s={var1:bytarr(2),var2:bytarr(3),var3:bytarr(4),var5:bytarr( 2)}  
x=fileline('data.txt',bytarr=byt)  
; x is the number of lines  
; could be used to replicate s  
reads,byt,s  
n=n_tags(s)  
For i=0,n-1 do $  
if is_number(string(s.(i))) then print, float(string(s.(i))) $  
else print, string(s.(i))  
end
```

```
1.00000  
2.00000  
text  
3.00000
```

Used routines from our library are:

[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_source/idl\\_html/dbase/download/fileline.tar.gz](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/download/fileline.tar.gz)  
[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_source/idl\\_html/dbase/download/is\\_number.tar.gz](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/download/is_number.tar.gz)

regards  
Reimar

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Reimar Bauer

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Forschungszentrum Juelich  
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a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich  
[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_lib\\_intro.html](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html)

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