
Subject: Bug in formatted read?

Posted by [landsman](#) on Tue, 02 Aug 1994 07:33:00 GMT

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I'm not sure if the following should be called a bug, but it certainly has caused me a lot of trouble until I realized what was going on.

Normally, during a formatted read one gets an error "End of Input record encountered" if the input line ends before all the variables have been read in. But if one includes spaces ('X') in the read format, then IDL blithely goes along filling the remaining variables with the last character read. For example,

```
; IDL Version 3.6 (vms alpha)
```

```
a = '23.5'
reads,a,f='(f4.1,1x,f5.1,1x,f5.1)',x,y,z
print,x,y,z
;    23.5000    5.00000    5.00000
```

In this case, the string to be read contained data only for the first variable X. So the next two variables were filled with the last character read '5', and no error message was given. (I use READS here so I don't have read from a file, but the same thing happens using READF.)

--Wayne Landsman

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