
Subject: Re: question about readf

Posted by [Nicolas Decoster](#) on Thu, 03 Aug 2006 08:59:52 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

rlayberry@hotmail.com a ½crit :

> I am trying to get data out of MS-Excel and into IDL as a float array.

>

> I laboriously save each Excel worksheet as a csv.

>

> I then readf the CSV into a float array.

>

> The problem is that there are some missing data values. for example

> ,10.0,,,0.0,10

> so a missing data value is given by two commas next to each other.

> readf assumes no data is there and all my formatting goes to pot. is

> there anyway of getting either excel to write csvs out with dummy

> values (-99.9 for example) or of getting IDL to read in a missing data

> point as a dummy value?

>

> thanks in advance

>

> russ

>

I had the same problem but with ";" instead of ",". Here is an extract
what I am doing :

```
file = 'data.csv'
openr, lun, file, /get_lun
while not eof(lun) do begin
    readf, lun, string
    string = strcompress(string) ;; in case there are some
                                ;; spaces or tabs.
    strings = strsplit(string, ',', /extract, /preserve_null)
    n = n_elements(strings)
    tab = fltarr(n)
    for i = 0, n - 1 do begin
        if (strings[i] eq "") then begin
            tab[i] = -99.9
        endif else begin
            reads, strings[i], value ;; we can't use tab[i]
                                    ;; directly, IDL needs
                                    ;; a named variable for reads.
            tab[i] = value
        endelse
    endfor
    help, tab
    print, tab
```

```
endwhile
free_lun, lun
```

If your file contains this line: ",10.0,,,0.0,10", IDL writes:

```
TAB      FLOAT  = Array[6]
-99.9000 10.0000 -99.9000 -99.9000 0.00000 10.0000
```

Subject: Re: question about readf
Posted by [rlayberry](#) on Thu, 03 Aug 2006 09:46:05 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Nicolas Decoster wrote:

```
> rlayberry@hotmail.com a écrit :
>> I am trying to get data out of MS-Excel and into IDL as a float array.
>>
>> I laboriously save each Excel worksheet as a csv.
>>
>> I then readf the CSV into a float array.
>>
>> The problem is that there are some missing data values. for example
>> ,10.0,,,0.0,10
>> so a missing data value is given by two commas next to each other.
>> readf assumes no data is there and all my formatting goes to pot. is
>> there anyway of getting either excel to write csvs out with dummy
>> values (-99.9 for example) or of getting IDL to read in a missing data
>> point as a dummy value?
>>
>> thanks in advance
>>
>> russ
>>
>
> I had the same problem but with ";" instead of ",". Here is an extract
> what I am doing :
>
>   file = 'data.csv'
>   openr, lun, file, /get_lun
>   while not eof(lun) do begin
>       readf, lun, string
>       string = strcompress(string) ;; in case there are some
>                                     ;; spaces or tabs.
>       strings = strsplit(string, ';', /extract, /preserve_null)
>       n = n_elements(strings)
>       tab = fltarr(n)
>       for i = 0, n - 1 do begin
>           if (strings[i] eq "") then begin
>               tab[i] = -99.9
```

```

>         endif else begin
>             reads, strings[i], value ;; we can't use tab[i]
>                                     ;; directly, IDL needs
>                                     ;; a named variable for reads.
>             tab[i] = value
>         endelse
>     endfor
>     help, tab
>     print, tab
> endwhile
> free_lun, lun
>
> If your file contains this line: ",10.0,,0.0,10", IDL writes:
> TAB      FLOAT    = Array[6]
> -99.9000 10.0000 -99.9000 -99.9000 0.00000 10.0000

```

I have just been playing, and it seems to work when I do

```

line to be read...
10,0,,10,10

```

```

a=fltarr(6)

```

```

readf,1,format='(5f)',a

```

```

print,a
10,0,0,10

```

I now have the probelm that I have some missing headers

```

line to be read
head1,head2,,head3

```

and i want to read this into a strarr which gives head1,head2,0,head3

any ideas?

Subject: Re: question about readf
 Posted by [rlayberry](#) on Thu, 03 Aug 2006 09:48:23 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

rlaybe...@hotmail.com wrote:

```

> Nicolas Decoster wrote:
>> rlayberry@hotmail.com a écrit :
>>> I am trying to get data out of MS-Excel and into IDL as a float array.
>>>
>>> I laboriously save each Excel worksheet as a csv.

```

```

>>>
>>> I then readf the CSV into a float array.
>>>
>>> The problem is that there are some missing data values. for example
>>> ,10.0,,,0.0,10
>>> so a missing data value is given by two commas next to each other.
>>> readf assumes no data is there and all my formatting goes to pot. is
>>> there anyway of getting either excel to write csvs out with dummy
>>> values (-99.9 for example) or of getting IDL to read in a missing data
>>> point as a dummy value?
>>>
>>> thanks in advance
>>>
>>> russ
>>>
>>
>> I had the same problem but with ";" instead of ",". Here is an extract
>> what I am doing :
>>
>>   file = 'data.csv'
>>   openr, lun, file, /get_lun
>>   while not eof(lun) do begin
>>       readf, lun, string
>>       string = strcompress(string) ;; in case there are some
>>                                   ;; spaces or tabs.
>>       strings = strsplit(string, ',', /extract, /preserve_null)
>>       n = n_elements(strings)
>>       tab = fltarr(n)
>>       for i = 0, n - 1 do begin
>>           if (strings[i] eq ";") then begin
>>               tab[i] = -99.9
>>           endif else begin
>>               reads, strings[i], value ;; we can't use tab[i]
>>                                   ;; directly, IDL needs
>>                                   ;; a named variable for reads.
>>               tab[i] = value
>>           endelse
>>       endfor
>>       help, tab
>>       print, tab
>>   endwhile
>>   free_lun, lun
>>
>> If your file contains this line: ",10.0,,,0.0,10", IDL writes:
>> TAB          FLOAT    = Array[6]
>> -99.9000 10.0000 -99.9000 -99.9000 0.00000 10.0000
>
> I have just been playing, and it seems to work when I do

```

```
>  
> line to be read...  
> 10,0,,10,10  
>  
> a=fltarr(6)  
>  
> readf,1,format='(5f)',a  
>  
> print,a  
> 10,0,0,10  
>  
> I now have the probelm that I have some missing headers  
>  
> line to be read  
> head1,head2,,head3  
>  
> and i want to read this into a strarr which gives head1,head2,0,head3  
>  
> any ideas?
```

sorry, just rereading your post and it has solved it with the
preserve_null...

thanks
