
Subject: question about readf

Posted by [rlayberry](#) on Thu, 03 Aug 2006 07:44:47 GMT

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

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

Subject: Re: question about readf

Posted by [saveio](#) on Fri, 04 Aug 2006 14:23:10 GMT

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

rlayberry@hotmail.com writes:

> 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?

I do this by reading in the entire line first, and then using stregex.

lformat = '("%%100s")' ; a really long string to read in each line

readf, lun, FORMAT = lformat, line

```

delimiter = ','
parts = strsplit( line, delimiter, $
                count = count, /EXTRACT, /PRESERVE_NULL )
parts = strcompress( parts, /REMOVE_ALL )
nullidx = where( parts eq "", count )
if count gt 0 then begin
    parts[ nullidx ] = !values.F_NAN
endif

```

Just remember the keyword to strsplit: /PRESERVE_NULL.

Hope this helps. If not, I hope someone has a better answer.

Matt

--
Matthew Savoie - Scientific Programmer
National Snow and Ice Data Center
(303) 735-0785 <http://nsidc.org>

Subject: Re: question about readf
Posted by [Paul\[2\]](#) on Fri, 11 Aug 2006 18:08:08 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

savoie@nsidc.org wrote:

> rlayberry@hotmail.com writes:

>

>> 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?

>

> I do this by reading in the entire line first, and then using stregex.

>

>

> lformat = '(% "%100s")' ; a really long string to read in each line

> readf, lun, FORMAT = lformat, line

```
> delimiter = ','
> parts = strsplit( line, delimiter, $
>           count = count, /EXTRACT, /PRESERVE_NULL )
> parts = strcompress( parts, /REMOVE_ALL )
> nullidx = where( parts eq "", count )
> if count gt 0 then begin
>   parts[ nullidx ] = !values.F_NAN
> endif
>
>
> Just remember the keyword to strsplit: /PRESERVE_NULL.
>
> Hope this helps. If not, I hope someone has a better answer.
>
> Matt
>
> --
> Matthew Savoie - Scientific Programmer
> National Snow and Ice Data Center
> (303) 735-0785 http://nsidc.org
```

I'm now reading .xls files natively in IDL using IDL's COM import bridge and the Excel Application Object. I *may* be able to preview it if anyone wants to "alpha" test it. I can't put the code out yet because we had to enhance one of IDL's internal dlls to make this possible. Anyone interested in testing it? Is there a project anyone is working on that could benefit from such functionality?? Contact me directly for more info: psommer@ittvis.com
