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Subject: Re: Basic format code question

Posted by [greg michael](#) on Mon, 16 Oct 2006 08:31:27 GMT

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> Is this normal behaviour for IDL's default formatting?

Looks like it is.

> Suppose the files are already there (can't set format keyword in  
> printf), how should I read this file without reading strings (data is  
> not fltarr(5) but fltarr(50,50,14))?

Looks like you can't. So now I know what that paragraph in the STRMID documentation must have been trying to explain...

Greg

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Subject: Re: Basic format code question

Posted by [Foldy Lajos](#) on Mon, 16 Oct 2006 08:42:41 GMT

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On Mon, 16 Oct 2006, Wox wrote:

> Hi,  
>  
> Try this:  
>  
> openw,lun,path,/get\_lun  
> a=[11.0335 , 11.0503 , 11.0615,-1.60416e+006 , 1.05404e+007]  
> printf,lun,a  
> close,lun  
> free\_lun,lun  
>  
> openr,lun,path,/get\_lun  
> b=fltarr(5)  
> readf,lun,b ; => this will not work

This works in IDL 6.2 (linux).

> close,lun  
> free\_lun,lun  
>  
> What is saved in the file looks like this:  
> 11.0335 11.0503 11.0615-1.60416e+006 1.05404e+007  
> Problems with the fourth number because of the '-'.  
>

What is saved in the file looks like this:

```
11.0335    11.0503    11.0615 -1.60416e+06 1.05404e+07
```

regards,  
lajos

> Is this normal behaviour for IDL's default formatting?  
>  
> Suppose the files are already there (can't set format keyword in  
> printf), how should I read this file without reading strings (data is  
> not fltarr(5) but fltarr(50,50,14))? Using format='(E13)' won't work  
> and you can't use repeat count with readf.  
>  
>

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Subject: Re: Basic format code question  
Posted by [greg michael](#) on Mon, 16 Oct 2006 08:55:31 GMT  
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So your version is using only two figures for the exponent - why is that?

Greg

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Subject: Re: Basic format code question  
Posted by [Foldy Lajos](#) on Mon, 16 Oct 2006 09:08:19 GMT  
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the min/max exponent for float is -/+38. Two figures is enough :-)  
I have tried IDL 5.3 (Solaris), with the same result. Which IDL version prints three figures?

regards,  
lajos

On Mon, 16 Oct 2006, greg michael wrote:

>  
> So your version is using only two figures for the exponent - why is  
> that?  
>  
> Greg

---

>  
>

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Subject: Re: Basic format code question  
Posted by [Wox](#) on Mon, 16 Oct 2006 09:16:07 GMT  
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Cfr. Manual on Format Code:

...  
Data Type w d e  
Float, Complex 15 7 2 (3 for Windows)  
...

Btw, I'm using 6.2 (Win)

On Mon, 16 Oct 2006 11:08:19 +0200, Földy Lajos <foldy@rmki.kfki.hu>  
wrote:

>  
> the min/max exponent for float is -/+38. Two figures is enough :-)  
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>  
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> lajos  
>  
>  
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>> that?  
>>  
>> Greg  
>>  
>>

---

Subject: Re: Basic format code question  
Posted by [Foldy Lajos](#) on Mon, 16 Oct 2006 09:26:04 GMT  
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I see. IDL portability :-)

On Mon, 16 Oct 2006, Wox wrote:

> Cfr. Manual on Format Code:

>

> ...

> Data Type w d e

> Float, Complex 15 7 2 (3 for Windows)

> ...

>

> Btw, I'm using 6.2 (Win)

>

>

>

> On Mon, 16 Oct 2006 11:08:19 +0200, FÖLDY Lajos <foldy@rmki.kfki.hu>

> wrote:

>

>>

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>> prints three figures?

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>> regards,

>> lajos

>>

>>

>> On Mon, 16 Oct 2006, greg michael wrote:

>>

>>>

>>> So your version is using only two figures for the exponent - why is

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>>>

>>> Greg

>>>

>>>

>

>

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Subject: Re: Basic format code question

Posted by [greg michael](#) on Mon, 16 Oct 2006 09:29:08 GMT

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6.2 Linux shows 2 figures.

6.3 Windows shows 3 figures...

Greg

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Subject: Re: Basic format code question  
Posted by [Foldy Lajos](#) on Mon, 16 Oct 2006 09:51:46 GMT  
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On Mon, 16 Oct 2006, greg michael wrote:

>  
> 6.2 Linux shows 2 figures.  
> 6.3 Windows shows 3 figures...  
>  
> Greg

OK, I have discovered, that FL does the same :-). So it comes from the underlying system C library.

On the other hand, FL can read back the following line, it can recognize, that the '-' sign is the beginning of the next number:

```
11.0335    11.0503    11.0615-1.60416e+006 1.05404e+007
```

I think IDL should do the same.

regards,  
lajos

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Subject: Re: Basic format code question  
Posted by [greg michael](#) on Mon, 16 Oct 2006 10:03:23 GMT  
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That's good that FL can do that, but correctly, they should both write the numbers with an extra space...

Greg

FÖLDY Lajos wrote:

>  
> OK, I have discovered, that FL does the same :-). So it comes from the  
> underlying system C library.  
>  
> On the other hand, FL can read back the following line, it can recognize,  
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> I think IDL should do the same.

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> regards,  
> lajos

---

---

Subject: Re: Basic format code question  
Posted by [Foldy Lajos](#) on Mon, 16 Oct 2006 10:16:37 GMT  
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I don't think so. There is no space between the fields, the space you see is padding space inside the fields. For floats, the width of the field is 13, which results in no padding space in this case. My Fortran instinct says that no extra space is required, and I think IDL mimics Fortran here.

regards,  
lajos

On Mon, 16 Oct 2006, greg michael wrote:

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> Greg  
>  
>  
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>> regards,  
>> lajos  
>  
>

---

---

Subject: Re: Basic format code question  
Posted by [greg michael](#) on Mon, 16 Oct 2006 11:20:22 GMT

---

But isn't the point of using an ascii file to make it human-readable?  
And editable? If not, you might as well just write the actual byte  
representation.

Allowing numbers to run into one another in the special case of 13-char  
negative floats isn't so attractive to me. What if I write "3-4-5"?  
Should that make sense?

regards,  
Greg

FÖLDY Lajos wrote:

> I don't think so. There is no space between the fields, the space you see  
> is padding space inside the fields. For floats, the width of the field is  
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>> the numbers with an extra space...

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>> Greg

>>  
>>  
>> FÖLDY Lajos wrote:

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>>> underlying system C library.

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>>> On the other hand, FL can read back the following line, it can recognize,  
>>> that the '-' sign is the beginning of the next number:

>>>  
>>> 11.0335 11.0503 11.0615-1.60416e+006 1.05404e+007

>>>  
>>> I think IDL should do the same.

>>>  
>>> regards,  
>>> lajos

>>  
>>  
> --110414000-150196392-1160993797=:20334--

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Subject: Re: Basic format code question  
Posted by [Foldy Lajos](#) on Mon, 16 Oct 2006 12:18:00 GMT  
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On Mon, 16 Oct 2006, greg michael wrote:

> But isn't the point of using an ascii file to make it human-readable?  
> And editable? If not, you might as well just write the actual byte  
> representation.  
>  
> Allowing numbers to run into one another in the special case of 13-char  
> negative floats isn't so attractive to me. What if I write "3-4-5"?  
> Should that make sense?  
>  
> regards,  
> Greg  
>

```
FL> i3=(i2=(i1=0))  
FL> read, i1,i2,i3  
: 3-4-5  
FL> help, i1,i2,i3  
I1   INT   =    3  
I2   INT   =   -4  
I3   INT   =   -5
```

So FL tries to interpret the numbers without the separating space.

Back to the original problem: in IDL, you will have to use an explicit FORMAT specification in Windows. In FL, I will print out a 2-digit exponent in Windows, too, so there will be always at least one space in the (default free-format) 13-char wide output.

regards,  
lajos

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Subject: Re: Basic format code question  
Posted by [Wox](#) on Mon, 16 Oct 2006 14:06:40 GMT  
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---

This will not work:  
`readf,lun,b,format='(F13)'`

Where do I have to use the format keyword then?

As far as I can see it now, I have to read strings or unformatted array and split+make float.



On Mon, 16 Oct 2006 14:18:00 +0200, Földy Lajos <foldy@rmki.kfki.hu> wrote:

> Back to the original problem: in IDL, you will have to use an explicit  
> FORMAT specification in Windows.

---

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Subject: Re: Basic format code question  
Posted by [Foldy Lajos](#) on Mon, 16 Oct 2006 14:50:34 GMT  
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On Mon, 16 Oct 2006, Wox wrote:

> This will not work:  
> readf,lun,b,format='(F13)'  
>  
> Where do I have to use the format keyword then?  
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>  
>  
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> wrote:  
>  
>> Back to the original problem: in IDL, you will have to use an explicit  
>> FORMAT specification in Windows.  
>

and what about this: readf,lun,b,format='(5F13)'

Format reversion terminates the current record, and begins to work on the next one. This means a new line both on read and write.

regards,  
lajos

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Subject: Re: Basic format code question  
Posted by [Wox](#) on Mon, 16 Oct 2006 15:02:28 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Sorry, my mistake. I was using format='5(F13)'. Thanks.

On Mon, 16 Oct 2006 16:50:34 +0200, Füzü LDY Lajos <foldy@rmki.kfki.hu>  
wrote:

> and what about this: readf,lun,b,format='(5F13)'

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