
Subject: Re: Reading in a non-rectangular array
Posted by [Jean H.](#) on Wed, 25 Oct 2006 17:52:11 GMT
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Hi,
Try to read each line as a string, then split this string using `strSplit` with the keyword `Preserve_Null` set. Then you can build your 6*n array, filling the location having a null string value with a flag value...

Jean

willett@gmail.com wrote:

```
> G'day,  
>  
> I'm trying to read in a data table to IDL that is (gasp)  
> non-rectangular (thanks very much to the astronomers involved). The  
> data is in an ASCII file, but certain cells will simply be blank if  
> there was no data for that particular value (so out of 6 columns, any  
> given row might have 0-6 actual values). Reading this into IDL, though,  
> doesn't seem to work according to Hoyle. This is what I have tried (and  
> received):  
>  
> _____  
>  
> fname = 'table1.dat'  
> openr, lun1, fname, /get_lun  
> nlines = file_lines(fname)  
> data = fltarr(6, nlines)  
> readf, lun1, data  
>  
> % READF: Input conversion error. Unit: 100  
>   File: /Users/willett/table1  
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$  
>  
> _____  
>  
> Any ideas that might help me read the data? Many thanks, if so.  
>
```

Subject: Re: Reading in a non-rectangular array
Posted by [willett](#) on Wed, 25 Oct 2006 19:42:18 GMT
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Thanks for the tip. I haven't used `strmid` and `strsplit` before, but they seem suited to this sort of problem.

On Oct 25, 11:52 am, "Jean H." <jghas...@DELTHIS.ucalgary.ANDTHIS.ca> wrote:

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>>      File: /Users/willettk/table1
>> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$
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Subject: Re: Reading in a non-rectangular array
Posted by [Braedley](#) on Thu, 26 Oct 2006 14:50:46 GMT
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willettk@gmail.com wrote:

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```

There are other methods involving read_ASCII and ASCII_template, but if the aforementioned method works for you, use that first.
