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Subject: Reading in a non-rectangular array  
Posted by [willett](#) on Wed, 25 Oct 2006 17:41:59 GMT  
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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):

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```
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: $MAIN$
```

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Any ideas that might help me read the data? Many thanks, if so.

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