
Subject: Re: 3*0.0 in FORMAT free I/O

Posted by [Fergus Gallagher](#) on Wed, 05 Apr 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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brooker@toka.ireq-ccfm.hydro.qc.ca wrote:

> Folks,

> I have an ASCII output file produced by a FORTRAN program running on one
> of

> the Livermore CRAYs. The output was written with FREE FORMAT format. One
> of the

> variables has 0.0 as the value for its first three elements. When you

> look at the file at the appropriate place, instead of seeing "0.0, 0.0,

0.0"

> you see "3*0.0"

>

> Has anybody ever ran into this "*" format?

>

This is standard FORTRAN.

You can even have a line like

3*,4*2.0,4,5,6

read(*) a ! with a(10) = real, say

Then the first three elements of a will be left unchanged.

The n* is called a "null input field": the above is equivalent to

,,,2.0,2.0,2.0,4,5,6

but IDL won't understand that either.

If this is likely to be a common problem, perhaps you should write a PERL
procedure to translate the data.

Fergus

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