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Subject: Reading \* symbol out of a string  
Posted by [fugu](#) on Mon, 11 May 2009 15:35:46 GMT  
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Dear all,

I have a string x

```
X      STRING  = '*280 948 80  0'
```

which I am trying to read into variables:

```
READS, x, stage, lat, lon, wind, press, format =  
'(A1,I3,1x,I3,1x,I3,1x,I4)'
```

This returns % Type conversion error: Unable to convert given STRING  
to Float.

and the problem seems to be the (ASCII decimal 42 mapped -) \* symbol.

I have tried to read it into various formats (replace A by I or F for  
instance), but none works.

Has anyone got an idea, why that is and how to work around it?

Many thanks!

Daniel

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