
Subject: Re: Skipping Commented Line in File
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Thu, 06 Aug 2009 22:08:54 GMT
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Vikram wrote:

> Hello,
>
> I was wondering if there is a way to skip a commented line in a .txt
> file, for example:
>
> #Count Time
> 1 60
> 2 80
> 3 100
>
> I would like to start from the second row data and skip the labels.
>
> Thanks,
> Vikram

I can think of several ways, but below is what I use for files that may also include embedded blank lines and comments:

```
FUNCTION Is_A_CommentLine, Line
  RETURN, STRMID(STRTRIM(Line,1),0,1) EQ '#'
END ; FUNCTION Is_A_CommentLine
```

```
FUNCTION Is_A_BlankLine, Line
  RETURN, STRLEN(STRTRIM(Line,2)) EQ 0
END ; FUNCTION Is_A_BlankLine
```

```
PRO test
  Line = "
  OPENR, fid, 'test.txt', /GET_LUN
  WHILE ( NOT EOF(fid) ) DO BEGIN
    ; ...Read a line from the file
    READF, fid, Line
    ; ...Cycle loop if this is an embedded comment or blank line
    IF ( Is_A_CommentLine(Line) OR Is_A_BlankLine(Line) ) THEN CONTINUE
    ; Otherwise read the line into variables
    READS, Line, x, y
    PRINT, x, y
    ; Store x and y into array
    ; .... etc etc ....
  ENDWHILE
```

```
FREE_LUN, fid
END
```

Here's my test.txt file:

```
#<----start of file---->
#Count Time
 1    60
 2    80
 3   100
 4    80
 5   100
 6   100
#embedded comment!
 7    80
 8   100
 9   100
10    80

# comment surrounded by blank lines!

11   100
12   100
13    80
14   100
15   100
16    80
17   100
#<----end of file---->
```

and here the above test.pro output:

```
IDL> .run test
% Compiled module: IS_A_COMMENTLINE.
% Compiled module: IS_A_BLANKLINE.
% Compiled module: TEST.
IDL> test
 1.00000  60.0000
 2.00000  80.0000
 3.00000 100.000
 4.00000  80.0000
 5.00000 100.000
 6.00000 100.000
 7.00000  80.0000
 8.00000 100.000
```

9.0000	100.000
10.0000	80.0000
11.0000	100.000
12.0000	100.000
13.0000	80.0000
14.0000	100.000
15.0000	100.000
16.0000	80.0000
17.0000	100.000

cheers,

paulv

Subject: Re: Skipping Commented Line in File
Posted by [vikramivatury](#) on Thu, 06 Aug 2009 22:13:14 GMT
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On Aug 6, 6:08 pm, Paul van Delst <paul.vande...@noaa.gov> wrote:

> Vikram wrote:

>> Hello,

>

>> I was wondering if there is a way to skip a commented line in a .txt
>> file, for example:

>

>> #Count Time

>> 1 60

>> 2 80

>> 3 100

>

>> I would like to start from the second row data and skip the labels.

>

>> Thanks,

>> Vikram

>

> I can think of several ways, but below is what I use for files that may also include
> embedded blank lines and comments:

>

> FUNCTION Is_A_CommentLine, Line

> RETURN, STRMID(STRTRIM(Line,1),0,1) EQ '#'

> END ; FUNCTION Is_A_CommentLine

>

> FUNCTION Is_A_BlankLine, Line

> RETURN, STRLEN(STRTRIM(Line,2)) EQ 0

> END ; FUNCTION Is_A_BlankLine

>

```

> PRO test
> Line = ""
> OPENR, fid, 'test.txt', /GET_LUN
> WHILE ( NOT EOF(fid) ) DO BEGIN
>   ; ...Read a line from the file
>   READF, fid, Line
>   ; ...Cycle loop if this is an embedded comment or blank line
>   IF ( Is_A_CommentLine(Line) OR Is_A_BlankLine(Line) ) THEN CONTINUE
>   ; Otherwise read the line into variables
>   READS, Line, x, y
>   PRINT, x, y
>   ; Store x and y into array
>   ; .... etc etc ....
> ENDWHILE
> FREE_LUN, fid
> END
>
> Here's my test.txt file:
>
> #<----start of file----->
> #Count Time
> 1      60
> 2      80
> 3     100
> 4      80
> 5     100
> 6     100
> #embedded comment!
> 7      80
> 8     100
> 9     100
> 10     80
>
> # comment surrounded by blank lines!
>
> 11     100
> 12     100
> 13     80
> 14     100
> 15     100
> 16     80
> 17     100
> #<----end of file----->
>
> and here the above test.pro output:
>
> IDL> .run test
> % Compiled module: IS_A_COMMENTLINE.

```

```
> % Compiled module: IS_A_BLANKLINE.
> % Compiled module: TEST.
> IDL> test
>   1.00000   60.0000
>   2.00000   80.0000
>   3.00000  100.000
>   4.00000   80.0000
>   5.00000  100.000
>   6.00000  100.000
>   7.00000   80.0000
>   8.00000  100.000
>   9.00000  100.000
>  10.0000   80.0000
>  11.0000  100.000
>  12.0000  100.000
>  13.0000   80.0000
>  14.0000  100.000
>  15.0000  100.000
>  16.0000   80.0000
>  17.0000  100.000
>
> cheers,
>
> paulv
```

Thanks for your help Paul! I will take a look at this program.

-Vikram

Subject: Re: Skipping Commented Line in File
Posted by [Gregory](#) on Fri, 07 Aug 2009 17:31:44 GMT
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On Aug 6, 4:45 pm, Vikram <vikramivat...@gmail.com> wrote:

```
> Hello,
>
> I was wondering if there is a way to skip a commented line in a .txt
> file, for example:
>
> #Count Time
> 1      60
> 2      80
> 3     100
>
> I would like to start from the second row data and skip the labels.
>
> Thanks,
```

> Vikram

There is a command `readcol` in IDL Astronomy user's library which is very convenient in cases like this. It skips comment lines and reads each column in a separate vector. In this case all you need to do would be:

```
readcol,'file.txt',count,time,format='f,f'
```

and you have all your numbers in Count column are in variable "count", Time column is in "time".

The library is in <http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/homepage.html>

Gregory
