
Subject: converting strings to float

Posted by [Krishnakumar M.A](#) on Fri, 13 Jun 2014 10:38:35 GMT

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Hi All,

I have a huge data file of two columns and a '# header' line in between. I used grep in idl to remove the '# lines'. The resulting output is written as a string, which is actually of 2 columns. I only require the second column for doing a surface plot. 1st column is just integer numbers. As i split the string by giving

```
h=strmid(b,3,10)
```

It will give me the second column but, rows from 0-9 will have huge -ve values. If I do the same with h=strmid(b,2,10), columns >=100 will give junk values. I'm kind of stuck with this.

Is there a better way to split the string and copy to a fltarr than defining the position to read from, as like one can do in C, Fortran etc?

Thanks,
Krishnakumar

Subject: Re: converting strings to float

Posted by [dg86](#) on Fri, 13 Jun 2014 13:11:32 GMT

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On Friday, June 13, 2014 6:38:35 AM UTC-4, Krishnakumar M.A wrote:

> Hi All,

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> Thanks,

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> Krishnakumar

Have you considered the READ_ASCII function from the standard IDL library?

All the best,

David

Subject: Re: converting strings to float

Posted by [chris_torrence@NOSPAM](#) on Fri, 13 Jun 2014 17:43:14 GMT

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On Friday, June 13, 2014 7:11:32 AM UTC-6, David Grier wrote:

> On Friday, June 13, 2014 6:38:35 AM UTC-4, Krishnakumar M.A wrote:

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> Have you considered the READ_ASCII function from the standard IDL library?
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>
> All the best,
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>
> David
```

Or, as long as you have spaces between the two columns, you can simply read the values into a 2xN float array and just keep the second column.

```
x = fltarr(2,n)
reads,stringdata,x
x = reform(x[1,*])
```

-Chris

Subject: Re: converting strings to float

Posted by [Krishnakumar M.A](#) on Wed, 18 Jun 2014 11:18:57 GMT

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On Friday, June 13, 2014 11:13:14 PM UTC+5:30, Chris Torrence wrote:

> On Friday, June 13, 2014 7:11:32 AM UTC-6, David Grier wrote:

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>> On Friday, June 13, 2014 6:38:35 AM UTC-4, Krishnakumar M.A wrote:

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> reads,stringdata,x
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> x = reform(x[1,*])
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>
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> -Chris

Thanks David and Chris for the reply.

David : I did it in the exact way as you said before itself, but didnt work. I just tweaked something here and there and it start to work. I did something wrong somewhere. Thanks a lot.

Chris : I haven't used read_ascii yet. And didn't get much idea how to use it my current data set. I'll check and try.

Thanks,
Krishnakumar
