
Subject: Re: How can I read data file with tab delimiter?
Posted by [M.W.Gardner](#) on Thu, 11 Jan 1996 08:00:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

ashi@acacia.lle.rochester.edu (Alexei Chirokikh) wrote:

> Hi,
> I have column organized data with TAB - delimiter. How can I read this data?
>

Assuming your data is organised in a consistent manner (i.e. all rows and columns contain the same number of data points) then this is really easy..

Assume your file is organised with 5 columns and 4 rows and contains floating point data.

The IDL code to read this into the array my_data is as follows

```
my_data=fltarr(5,4) ;define array of correct dimensions and type
openr,lun,'my_tab_file.dat',/get_lun ;open file
readf,lun,my_data ;read data into array maintaining structure in file
close,lun ;close file
free_lun,lun ;free logical file unit
```

IDL can read tabs as multiple space delimiters - you do not have to specify the fact that the delimiter is a tab.

Hope that helps - if not get in touch.

Matt

--

-----> Matt Gardner EMAIL->m.W.gardner@uea.ac.uk PHONE->+44- 1603-592041
School of Environmental Science,University of East Anglia,Norwich,NR4 7TJ,UK

opinions are mine - <http://www.uea.ac.uk/~e449>

Subject: Re: How can I read data file with tab delimiter?
Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Fri, 12 Jan 1996 08:00:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

The best routine I have found for this purpose is DDREAD.PRO,
available as part of Fred Knight's library at

ftp://ftp.rsinc.com/pub/user_contrib/knight

From the online documentation:

```
; This routine reads data in formatted (or unformatted) rows and columns.
; The name stands for Data Dump Read. By default, comments are
```

; skipped and the number of columns is sensed. Many options
; exist, e.g., selecting rows and columns, reading binary data,
; and selecting non-default data type and delimiters.

It also reads TAB delimited files. The best thing is that you don't
have to know the number of rows and columns in advance - DDREAD figures it out.

Do yourself a favor and get it.

Cheers,
Liam.
