
Subject: reading format data

Posted by [Hon Yee](#) on Wed, 10 Jul 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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in my data file there are empty lines. I read data as structures, and and empty line gives values of zeros. How can avoid empty lines, or ignore them soon i don't have returning zeros. could someone help out,please?. Thank in advance.

Hon

Subject: Re: reading format data

Posted by [hahn](#) on Thu, 11 Jul 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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Hon Yee <yeek@boulder.colorado.edu> wrote:

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> out,please?. Thank in advance.

There are several way to approach a solution, depending on the size of your data sets and the amount of disk space.

Assumption 1: Each record is delimited by LF or CR LF or some other delimiter. Then an empty record will be made up of two delimiters.

- a) You can use some stream editor to replace two adjacent delimiter by one. However, you have to the data twice on the disk during compression.
- b) If the data in the file is printable, you read your data set record by record into a string variable. If the string variable is not empty you read your structure from the string.
- c) If the data is binary, no conversion will be required. Thus you cannot READ from the buffer but need to transport the data without conversion.

Assumption 2: There are no delimiters but fixed length records.

- a) You can use some stream editor to replace the fixed length blank records by nothing. This again requires storing the data set twice on the disk.
- b) You read your data set record by record into a string variable. if the string variable is not empty you backspace the file and read into the structure.

Example for Assuption 1 solution b:

```
stru = { ..... } ; your data structure
```

```
OpenR, iunit, dsn, /get_lun ; Open input file
buffer = '*'
```

```
while not eof(iunit) do begin
  readf, iunit, buffer
  if StrLen ( buffer ) gt 1 then ReadS, buffer, stru
end
```

Example for Assumption 1 solution c:

```
stru = { a:0L, b:fltarr(10), c:0B, d:'####' } ; your data structure
```

```
OpenR, iunit, dsn, /get_lun ; Open input file
buffer = '*'
```

```
while not eof(iunit) do begin
  readf, iunit, buffer
  if StrLen ( buffer ) gt 1 then begin
    bbuffer = Byte(buffer)
    stru.a = long(bbuffer,0)
    stru.b = float(bbuffer(4:43),0,10)
    stru.c = bbuffer(44)
    stru.d = string(bbuffer(45:48))
  end
end
```

Example for Assumption 2 b)

```
stru = { ..... } ; your data structure
```

```
OpenR, iunit, dsn, /get_lun ; Open input file
buffer = '*'
```

```
while not eof(iunit) do begin
  point_lun, -iunit, pos ; remember current file position
  readf, iunit, buffer
  if StrLen ( buffer ) gt 1 then begin
    point_lun, iunit, pos ; goto remembered file position
    ReadU, iunit, stru
  endif
end
```

Hope, this helps

Norbert

Subject: Re: reading format data

Posted by [David Foster](#) on Thu, 11 Jul 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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>

You might try reading the data file as an array of strings,
remove the blank lines, and then read the contents of the
string array into your structure, if that's what you want.

I'm sending you via email a routine called FILE_STRARR.PRO that
reads the contents of a file into a string array. It's written
for UNIX systems, but you could modify if for Mac or PC easily.
Using this, you could say:

```
string_array = FILE_STRARR( filename )  
non_blank = where( string_array ne "" )  
if ( non_blank(0) ne -1 ) then $  
  string_array = string_array( non_blank )
```

Hope this helps.

Dave Foster
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