
Subject: Re: Why doesn't this work?

Posted by [Tim Abbott](#) on Thu, 09 Jan 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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Oops, as Joe Gurman points out, if all the numbers are 3 digits long the fix is to use `format='(4(1X,I3))'`. Unfortunately, the numbers will not always be 3 digits long...

Tim Abbott wrote:

```
>
> Can anyone tell me why this doesn't work?
>
> I need to extract the four numbers from the string "[123:456,246:135]"
>
> Here is the code segment I'm trying to use:
> IDL> str = "[123:456,246:135]"
> IDL> reads,str,x1,x2,x3,x4,format='(4(1X,I0))'
> % Unable to apply format code I to input: "]".
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$
> IDL> print,x1,x2,x3
>    123.000    246.000    0.00000
> IDL> print,x1,x2,x3,x4
> % PRINT: Variable is undefined: X4.
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$
>
> Any ideas?
>
> --
> Timothy M. C. Abbott
> http://www.cfht.hawaii.edu/~tmca/tmca.html
```

--

Timothy M. C. Abbott

<http://www.cfht.hawaii.edu/~tmca/tmca.html>

Subject: Re: Why doesn't this work?

Posted by [joseph.b.gurman](#) on Thu, 09 Jan 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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In article <32D58AF7.51A8@cfht.hawaii.edu>, Tim Abbott
<tmca@cfht.hawaii.edu> wrote:

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> IDL> reads,str,x1,x2,x3,x4,format='(4(1X,I0))'
                                ^^
> % Unable to apply format code I to input: "J".
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$
> IDL> print,x1,x2,x3
>    123.000    246.000    0.00000
> IDL> print,x1,x2,x3,x4
> % PRINT: Variable is undefined: X4.
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$

```

Tim -

It looks like it's trying to read the final "]" because you're using I0 --- do you need to do that, or do you know that all your integer strings will be three characters long? If so, of course, you could just use:

```
IDL> reads, str , x1, x2, x3, x4, format = '(4(1X, I3))'
```

which gives:

```
IDL> print, x1, x2, x3, x4
    123.000    456.000    246.000    135.000
```

Sorry if I'm missing the point; I thought it might have to do with the lack of oxygen at the telescope....

Joe Gurman

--

J.B. Gurman / Solar Physics Branch/ NASA Goddard Space Flight Center/
 Greenbelt MD 20771 USA / joseph.b.gurman@gsfc.nasa.gov
 | Federal employees are still prohibited from holding opinions while at |
 | work. Therefore, any opinions expressed herein are somebody else's. |

Subject: Re: Why doesn't this work?
 Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 13 Jan 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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The main reason this doesn't work, I think, is that the READS procedure and the I0 format require more carefully formatted input than they are getting here. In particular, they really don't know how to handle the colons.

You can get this example to work if you perform a little bit of "processing" on the string to turn the colons into commas.

I suggest something like this:

```

comma = 44B
colon = 58B
str = "[123:456,246:135]"
array = BYTE(str)
colonLocations = WHERE(array EQ colon, count)
IF count GT 0 THEN array(colonLocations) = comma
str = STRING(array)
READS, str, x1, x2, x3, x4, FORMAT='(4(1X,I0))'
PRINT, x1, x2, x3, x4

```

Yours,

David

```

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David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
2642 Bradbury Court, Fort Collins, CO 80521
Phone: 970-221-0438  Fax: 970-221-4762
E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com
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```

Subject: Re: Why doesn't this work?

Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 13 Jan 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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Yours,

David

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
2642 Bradbury Court, Fort Collins, CO 80521
Phone: 970-221-0438 Fax: 970-221-4762
E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com>

Subject: Re: Why doesn't this work?
Posted by [David Foster](#) on Tue, 14 Jan 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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Tim Abbott wrote:

```
>  
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> IDL> print,x1,x2,x3,x4  
> % PRINT: Variable is undefined: X4.  
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>
```

Tim -

I've mailed you a copy of my routine GET_TOKEN.PRO that allows you to read byte, int, long, float, double and string values from a string, as tokens. The routine maintains a string pointer for subsequent calls.

You can parse the above string using:

```
IDL> str = "[123:456,246:135]"  
IDL> pos=0  
IDL> s1 = get_token( str, pos, sep='[:]', /increment)  
IDL> s2 = get_token( str, pos, sep='[:]', /increment)  
IDL> s3 = get_token( str, pos, sep='[:]', /increment)  
IDL> s4 = get_token( str, pos, sep='[:]', /increment)  
IDL> help, s1,s2,s3,s4  
S1          STRING    = '123'
```

S2 STRING = '456'
S3 STRING = '246'
S4 STRING = '135'

If anyone else is interested, send me an email and I'll send
you a copy.

Dave

--

~~~~~  
David S. Foster        Univ. of California, San Diego  
Programmer/Analyst   Brain Image Analysis Laboratory  
foster@bial1.ucsd.edu   Department of Psychiatry  
(619) 622-5892        8950 Via La Jolla Drive, Suite 2200  
                      La Jolla, CA 92037  
                      [ UCSD Mail Code 0949 ]  
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