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How to Read Data in Fixed Columns Using Formatted Input Method

Part 1



Formatted Input Method

- ▶ Reads data from fixed columns
- ▶ Reads character and numeric data including standard and nonstandard numerical values, such as numbers with dollar signs and commas
- ▶ Reads dates in different formats, not like column input which can only read dates as character values
- ▶ It is the most common and powerful of all the input methods
- ▶ Any time you have nonstandard data in fixed columns, you should consider using formatted input to read the file.



Raw Data

1234567890123456789012 ---- Columns indicator, not part of the data

Tim M14510/21/1978

Sara 13009/20/1964

Mike M18011/23/1965

Laura F13011/06/1980

Sean M16704/07/2000

I use the same raw data file (data_column.txt) that was used in the tutorial on column input. The data is shown as above. The variables information is listed as below.

There are 4 variables in the data.

- ▶ Name: occupies total five columns, column 1-5
- ▶ Gender: occupies total one column, column 6
- ▶ Weight: occupies three columns, column 7-9
- ▶ DOB: occupies ten columns, column 10 - 19

