
Subject: readcol with empty fields

Posted by [burkina](#) on Wed, 30 Aug 2006 16:02:22 GMT

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I often use 'readcol' to read from ascii files.

However, I now have a file like this (there are actually more fields):

```
0.84546 | -26.05467 | Q0000-263      | 4.0980 | -30.0 | 0.0003
| 3 |      | |
1.58134 | 20.20291 | MRK335      | 0.0258 | -21.8 | 0.003
| 1 | 0.007 | 1 |
10.83229 | 0.85425 | UM269      | 0.3084 | -22.7 |
| | 0.002 | 1 |
13.39559 | 12.69339 | IZW1      | 0.0611 | -23.4 | 0.003
| 1 | 0.008 | 1 |
13.71708 | 25.42722 | PG0052+251 | 0.1550 | -24.5 | 0.001
| 1 |
```

That is, the structure of each line is always the same, with the delimiter |, but some fields are empty.

Therefore, when I try to read it with readcol:

```
readcol, table, DELIMITER='|', F='F,F,A,F,F,F,A,F,A', ra, dec, source,
z, mabs, f6, ref6, f20, ref20
```

only the lines with all the fields as defined in the format are read,
the others are ignored.

Instead, I need all the lines to be read and, when the field is empty,
a value of 0 (or, better, something like NULL, something that should be
ignored) should be put in the vector if it's a number, or simply the
null string if it's a string field.

How can I do that?

Thanks,

Stefano
