
Subject: Re: readcol with empty fields

Posted by [burkina](#) on Thu, 31 Aug 2006 13:31:31 GMT

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Thanks Wayne!

I'm using option 3... :)

Stefano

Wayne Landsman wrote:

> burkina wrote:

>

>> 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.

>>

>

> 1. For strings, READCOL should already work as you wish -- an empty
> field will be read as an empty string.

>

> 2. For numeric fields, try downloading a new version of strnumber.pro
> from <http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/pro/misc/strnumber.pro>

> In ancient history (1993) , there was a kluge added to strnumber.pro
> such that an empty string was not considered a valid number. (At
> that time, doing otherwise could corrupt the ~V3.6 IDL session.) I
> have now removed this kluge so READCOL will read empty strings into
> zero values.

>

> 3. For floating point numbers, you probably don't want a zero value
> but rather a NaN value. In this case, I'd read the column, say f6, as
> a string array, and identify the empty strings before converting to
> float.

>

> f6 = strtrim(f6,2)

> bad = where(strlen(f6) EQ 0, Nbad)

> if Nbad GT 0 then f6[bad] = 'NaN'

> f6 = float(f6)

>

> I suppose it would be useful to have a /NAN keyword to READCOL do this
> automatically.

>

> --Wayne
