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.
> that time, doing otherwise could corrupt the ~V3.6 IDL session.)
> 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