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Subject: make strsplit not skip null between patterns  
Posted by [Garfield](#) on Thu, 17 Feb 2011 22:59:14 GMT  
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Hi all,  
I am trying to use strsplit to extract data from a string. the string  
is like this:

```
RD||04|013|9997|43202|10|1|078|142|20070813|02:00|0.00000|| ||  
ND|||||||.31806
```

I am using '|' as the pattern of separator, so the statement is "data  
= strsplit(line,'|', count=n, /extract)". I do this for thousands of  
lines. The problem for me is that there is not always an input between  
a pair of '|', so the dimensions of the 'data' returned by IDL are not  
constant. I don't want this because every input in between a pair of  
'|' has different meaning. I want to make the dimension of 'data' to  
be constant so that I can easily know the meaning of each input.

Need ideas! Thanks,

Zhen

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