

---

Subject: Re: TRICKY TASK USING AWK

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Wed, 02 Mar 2016 03:36:38 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

READCOL does not care how many columns are in a file. Say a file "bigtable.dat" has 100 columns and we just want to read the 5th column. This would work.

```
IDL> readcol,'bigtable.dat',v5,f='x,x,x,x,f'
```

Unfortunately, one can't abbreviate the format as `f = '4x,f'` though this feature wouldn't be too hard to add.

On Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 1:08:03 AM UTC-5, Sapna Mishra wrote:

Say If I have infinite number of columns And I want to read 100th column how would I do that, shall I need to give 100 parameters in Readcol?? This seems tough to me.

---