Subject: Re: readcol with empty fields
Posted by news.verizon.net on Wed, 30 Aug 2006 17:59:06 GMT
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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

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

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Wayne Landsman wrote:
> burking wrote:
>> Instead, I need all the lines to be read and, when the field is empty,
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>
> f6 = strtrim(f6,2)
> bad = where(strlen(f6) EQ 0, Nbad)
> if Nbad GT 0 then f6[bad] = 'NaN'
> f6 = float(f6)
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> automatically.
> --Wayne
```