

Reading Data in zoo

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Abstract

This vignette gives examples of how to read data in various formats in the **zoo** package using the `read.zoo()` function. The function `read.zoo()` expects either a text file (or text connection) as input or data frame. The former case is handled by first using `read.table()` to produce the data frame. (Instead of a text file, the `text` argument can be used to read a text string that is already stored in R which is used in the examples of this vignette.) Subsequently, `read.zoo()` provides a wide collection of convenience functionality to turn that data frame into a ‘zoo’ series with a specific structure and a specific time index. In this vignette, an overview is provided of the wide variety of cases that can be handled with `read.zoo()`. All examples assume that **zoo** is already loaded and (if necessary) that the **chron** package has been loaded as well.

Note that functions `read.csv.zoo()`, `read.csv2.zoo()`, `read.delim.zoo()`, and `read.delim2.zoo()` are available that call the respective `read.*()` function instead of `read.table()` and subsequently `read.zoo()`. However, these convenience interfaces are not employed in this vignette in order to demonstrate setting all arguments ‘by hand’.

Keywords: irregular time series, daily data, weekly data, data frame, text file.

Example 1

Input class: Text file/connection (space-separated with header).

Input index: 'integer'.

Output class: Multivariate 'zoo' series.

Output index: 'integer'.

Strategy: No transformation of time index needed, hence only a simple call to `read.zoo()`.

```
R> Lines <- "
+ time latitude longitude altitude distance heartrate
+ 1277648884 0.304048 -0.793819      260  0.000000      94
+ 1277648885 0.304056 -0.793772      262  4.307615      95
+ 1277648894 0.304075 -0.793544      263 25.237911     103
+ 1277648902 0.304064 -0.793387      256 40.042988     115
+ "
R> z <- read.zoo(text = Lines, header = TRUE)
R> z
```

	latitude	longitude	altitude	distance	heartrate
1277648884	0.304048	-0.793819	260	0.000000	94
1277648885	0.304056	-0.793772	262	4.307615	95
1277648894	0.304075	-0.793544	263	25.237911	103
1277648902	0.304064	-0.793387	256	40.042988	115

Example 2

Input class: ‘data.frame’.

Input index: ‘factor’ with labels indicating AM/PM times but no date.

Output class: Multivariate ‘zoo’ series.

Output index: ‘times’ (from **chron**).

Strategy: The idea is to add some dummy date (here 1970-01-01) to the ‘character’ labels, then transform to ‘chron’ and extract the ‘times’.

Caveat: The AM/PM labels are locale-dependent (e.g., could be am/pm or a.m./p.m. in other English locales). Hence, it needs to be checked whether the %p attribute is read correctly in the current locale. Here, a C locale is used to assure reproducibility.

```
R> DF <- structure(list(
+   Time = structure(1:5, .Label = c("7:10:03 AM", "7:10:36 AM",
+     "7:11:07 AM", "7:11:48 AM", "7:12:25 AM"), class = "factor"),
+   Bid = c(6118.5, 6118.5, 6119.5, 6119, 6119),
+   Offer = c(6119.5, 6119.5, 6119.5, 6120, 6119.5)),
+   .Names = c("Time", "Bid", "Offer"), row.names = c(NA, -5L),
+   class = "data.frame")
R> DF
```

	Time	Bid	Offer
1	7:10:03 AM	6118.5	6119.5
2	7:10:36 AM	6118.5	6119.5
3	7:11:07 AM	6119.5	6119.5
4	7:11:48 AM	6119.0	6120.0
5	7:12:25 AM	6119.0	6119.5

```
R> ct <- Sys.getlocale("LC_TIME")
R> Sys.setlocale("LC_TIME", "C")

R> z <- read.zoo(DF, FUN = function(x)
+   times(as.chron(paste("1970-01-01", x), format = "%Y-%m-%d %I:%M:%S %p")))
R> z
```

	Bid	Offer
07:10:03	6118.5	6119.5
07:10:36	6118.5	6119.5
07:11:07	6119.5	6119.5
07:11:48	6119.0	6120.0
07:12:25	6119.0	6119.5

```
R> Sys.setlocale("LC_TIME", ct)
```

Example 3

Input class: Text file/connection (semicolon-separated with header).

Input index: ‘factor’s with labels indicating dates (column 1) and times (column 2).

Output class: Multivariate ‘zoo’ series, with separate columns for each date.

Output index: ‘times’ (from **chron**).

Strategy: Split the data based on date (column 1) and process times (column 2) to ‘times’. Enhance column names at the end.

```
R> Lines <- "
+ Date;Time;Close
+ 01/09/2009;10:00;56567
+ 01/09/2009;10:05;56463
+ 01/09/2009;10:10;56370
+ 01/09/2009;16:45;55771
+ 01/09/2009;16:50;55823
+ 01/09/2009;16:55;55814
+ 02/09/2009;10:00;55626
+ 02/09/2009;10:05;55723
+ 02/09/2009;10:10;55659
+ 02/09/2009;16:45;55742
+ 02/09/2009;16:50;55717
+ 02/09/2009;16:55;55385
+ "
R> f <- function(x) times(paste(x, 0, sep = ":"))
R> z <- read.zoo(text = Lines, header = TRUE, sep = ";",
+   split = 1, index = 2, FUN = f)
R> colnames(z) <- sub("X(..).(..)(....)", "\\3-\\2-\\1", colnames(z))
R> z
```

	01/09/2009	02/09/2009
10:00:00	56567	55626
10:05:00	56463	55723
10:10:00	56370	55659
16:45:00	55771	55742
16:50:00	55823	55717
16:55:00	55814	55385

Example 4

Input class: Text file/connection (space-separated with header).

Input index: ‘factor’s with labels indicating dates (column 1) and times (column 2).

Output class: Multivariate ‘zoo’ series.

Output index: ‘chron’ (from **chron**).

Strategy: Indicate vector of two columns in **index**, which is subsequently processed by a **FUN** taking two arguments and returning a ‘chron’ time/date.

```
R> Lines <- "
+ Date Time O H L C
+ 1/2/2005 17:05 1.3546 1.3553 1.3546 1.35495
+ 1/2/2005 17:10 1.3553 1.3556 1.3549 1.35525
+ 1/2/2005 17:15 1.3556 1.35565 1.35515 1.3553
+ 1/2/2005 17:25 1.355 1.3556 1.355 1.3555
+ 1/2/2005 17:30 1.3556 1.3564 1.35535 1.3563
+ "
R> f <- function(d, t) as.chron(paste(as.Date(chron(d)), t))
R> z <- read.zoo(text = Lines, header = TRUE, index = 1:2, FUN = f)
R> z
```

	O	H	L	C
(01/02/05 17:05:00)	1.3546	1.35530	1.35460	1.35495
(01/02/05 17:10:00)	1.3553	1.35560	1.35490	1.35525
(01/02/05 17:15:00)	1.3556	1.35565	1.35515	1.35530
(01/02/05 17:25:00)	1.3550	1.35560	1.35500	1.35550
(01/02/05 17:30:00)	1.3556	1.35640	1.35535	1.35630

Example 5

Input class: Text file/connection (space-separated with non-matching header).

Input index: ‘factor’s with labels indicating dates (column 6) and unneeded weekdays (column 5) and times (column 7).

Output class: Multivariate ‘zoo’ series.

Output index: ‘Date’.

Strategy: First, **skip** the header line, remove unneeded columns by setting `colClasses` to "NULL", and set suitable `col.names`. Second, convert the date column to a ‘Date’ index using `format`. Finally, aggregate over duplicate dates, keeping only the last observation.

```
R> Lines <-
+ "  views  number  timestamp day          time
+ 1  views  910401  1246192687 Sun 6/28/2009 12:38
+ 2  views  921537  1246278917 Mon 6/29/2009 12:35
+ 3  views  934280  1246365403 Tue 6/30/2009 12:36
+ 4  views  986463  1246888699 Mon 7/6/2009 13:58
+ 5  views  995002  1246970243 Tue 7/7/2009 12:37
+ 6  views  1005211 1247079398 Wed 7/8/2009 18:56
+ 7  views  1011144 1247135553 Thu 7/9/2009 10:32
+ 8  views  1026765 1247308591 Sat 7/11/2009 10:36
+ 9  views  1036856 1247436951 Sun 7/12/2009 22:15
+ 10 views  1040909 1247481564 Mon 7/13/2009 10:39
+ 11 views  1057337 1247568387 Tue 7/14/2009 10:46
+ 12 views  1066999 1247665787 Wed 7/15/2009 13:49
+ 13 views  1077726 1247778752 Thu 7/16/2009 21:12
+ 14 views  1083059 1247845413 Fri 7/17/2009 15:43
+ 15 views  1083059 1247845824 Fri 7/17/2009 18:45
+ 16 views  1089529 1247914194 Sat 7/18/2009 10:49
+ "
R> cl <- c("NULL", "numeric", "character")[c(1, 1, 2, 2, 1, 3, 1)]
R> cn <- c(NA, NA, "views", "number", NA, NA, NA)
R> z <- read.zoo(text = Lines, skip = 1, col.names = cn, colClasses = cl,
+   index = 3, format = "%m/%d/%Y",
+   aggregate = function(x) tail(x, 1))
R> z
```

	views	number
2009-06-28	910401	1246192687
2009-06-29	921537	1246278917
2009-06-30	934280	1246365403
2009-07-06	986463	1246888699
2009-07-07	995002	1246970243
2009-07-08	1005211	1247079398
2009-07-09	1011144	1247135553
2009-07-11	1026765	1247308591

```

2009-07-12 1036856 1247436951
2009-07-13 1040909 1247481564
2009-07-14 1057337 1247568387
2009-07-15 1066999 1247665787
2009-07-16 1077726 1247778752
2009-07-17 1083059 1247845824
2009-07-18 1089529 1247914194

```

Extract all Thursdays and Fridays.

```
R> (z45 <- z[format(time(z), "%w") %in% 4:5,])
```

```

      views      number
2009-07-09 1011144 1247135553
2009-07-16 1077726 1247778752
2009-07-17 1083059 1247845824

```

Keep last entry in each week.

```
R> z45[!duplicated(format(time(z45), "%U"), fromLast = TRUE), ]
```

```

      views      number
2009-07-09 1011144 1247135553
2009-07-17 1083059 1247845824

```

Alternative approach: Above approach labels each point as it was originally labeled, i.e., if Thursday is used it gets the date of that Thursday. Another approach is to always label the resulting point as Friday and also use the last available value even if its not Thursday.

Create daily grid and fill in so Friday is filled in with prior value if Friday is NA.

```

R> g <- seq(start(z), end(z), by = "day")
R> z.filled <- na.locf(z, xout = g)

```

Extract Fridays, including those filled in from previous day.

```
R> z.filled[format(time(z.filled), "%w") == "5", ]
```

```

      views      number
2009-07-03  934280 1246365403
2009-07-10 1011144 1247135553
2009-07-17 1083059 1247845824

```

Example 6

Input class: Text file/connection (comma-separated with header).

Input index: ‘factor’s with labels indicating dates (column 1) and times (column 2).

Output class: Multivariate ‘zoo’ series.

Output index: ‘chron’ (from **chron**) or ‘POSIXct’.

Strategy: Three versions, all using vector `index = 1:2`.

```
R> Lines <- "
+ Date,Time,Open,High,Low,Close,Up,Down
+ 05.02.2001,00:30,421.20,421.20,421.20,421.20,11,0
+ 05.02.2001,01:30,421.20,421.40,421.20,421.40,7,0
+ 05.02.2001,02:00,421.30,421.30,421.30,421.30,0,5"
```

With custom FUN using `chron()` after appending seconds.

```
R> f <- function(d, t) chron(d, paste(t, "00", sep = ":"),
+   format = c("m.d.y", "h:m:s"))
R> z <- read.zoo(text = Lines, sep = ",", header = TRUE,
+   index = 1:2, FUN = f)
R> z
```

	Open	High	Low	Close	Up	Down
(05.02.01 00:30:00)	421.2	421.2	421.2	421.2	11	0
(05.02.01 01:30:00)	421.2	421.4	421.2	421.4	7	0
(05.02.01 02:00:00)	421.3	421.3	421.3	421.3	0	5

With custom FUN using `as.chron()` with suitable format.

```
R> f2 <- function(d, t) as.chron(paste(d, t), format = "%d.%m.%Y %H:%M")
R> z2 <- read.zoo(text = Lines, sep = ",", header = TRUE,
+   index = 1:2, FUN = f2)
R> z2
```

	Open	High	Low	Close	Up	Down
(02/05/01 00:30:00)	421.2	421.2	421.2	421.2	11	0
(02/05/01 01:30:00)	421.2	421.4	421.2	421.4	7	0
(02/05/01 02:00:00)	421.3	421.3	421.3	421.3	0	5

Without FUN, hence the `index` columns are pasted together and then passed to `as.POSIXct()` because `tz` and `format` are specified.

```
R> z3 <- read.zoo(text = Lines, sep = ",", header = TRUE,
+   index = 1:2, tz = "", format = "%d.%m.%Y %H:%M")
R> z3
```

	Open	High	Low	Close	Up	Down
2001-02-05 00:30:00	421.2	421.2	421.2	421.2	11	0
2001-02-05 01:30:00	421.2	421.4	421.2	421.4	7	0
2001-02-05 02:00:00	421.3	421.3	421.3	421.3	0	5

Example 7

Input class: Text file/connection (space-separated with header).

Input index: ‘factor’s with labels indicating dates (column 1) and times (column 2).

Output class: Multivariate ‘zoo’ series.

Output index: ‘POSIXct’.

Strategy: Due to standard date/time formats, only `index = 1:2` and `tz = ""` need to be specified to produce ‘POSIXct’ index.

```
R> Lines <- "Date Time V2    V3    V4    V5
+ 2010-10-15 13:43:54 73.8 73.8 73.8 73.8
+ 2010-10-15 13:44:15 73.8 73.8 73.8 73.8
+ 2010-10-15 13:45:51 73.8 73.8 73.8 73.8
+ 2010-10-15 13:46:21 73.8 73.8 73.8 73.8
+ 2010-10-15 13:47:27 73.8 73.8 73.8 73.8
+ 2010-10-15 13:47:54 73.8 73.8 73.8 73.8
+ 2010-10-15 13:49:51 73.7 73.7 73.7 73.7
+ "
R> z <- read.zoo(text = Lines, header = TRUE, index = 1:2, tz = "")
R> z
```

```
              V2    V3    V4    V5
2010-10-15 13:43:54 73.8 73.8 73.8 73.8
2010-10-15 13:44:15 73.8 73.8 73.8 73.8
2010-10-15 13:45:51 73.8 73.8 73.8 73.8
2010-10-15 13:46:21 73.8 73.8 73.8 73.8
2010-10-15 13:47:27 73.8 73.8 73.8 73.8
2010-10-15 13:47:54 73.8 73.8 73.8 73.8
2010-10-15 13:49:51 73.7 73.7 73.7 73.7
```

Example 8

Input class: Text file/connection (space-separated without header).

Input index: ‘factor’ with labels indicating dates.

Output class: Multivariate ‘zoo’ series, with separate columns depending on column 2.

Output index: ‘Date’.

Strategy: Non-standard `na.strings` format needs to be specified, series is `split` based on second column, and date `format` (in column 1, default) needs to be specified.

```
R> Lines <- "
+ 13/10/2010      A      23
+ 13/10/2010      B      12
+ 13/10/2010      C     124
+ 14/10/2010      A      43
+ 14/10/2010      B      54
+ 14/10/2010      C      65
+ 15/10/2010      A      43
+ 15/10/2010      B     N.A.
+ 15/10/2010      C      65
+ "
R> z <- read.zoo(text = Lines, na.strings = "N.A.",
+   format = "%d/%m/%Y", split = 2)
R> z
```

	A	B	C
2010-10-13	23	12	124
2010-10-14	43	54	65
2010-10-15	43	NA	65

Example 9

Input class: Text file/connection (comma-separated with header).

Input index: ‘factor’ with labels indicating date/time.

Output class: Univariate ‘zoo’ series.

Output index: ‘chron’ (from **chron**) or ‘POSIXct’.

Strategy: Ignore first two columns by setting `colClasses` to "NULL". Either produce ‘chron’ index via `as.chron()` or use all defaults to produce ‘POSIXct’ by setting `tz`.

```
R> Lines <- '
+   ", "Fish_ID", "Date", "R2sqrt"
+   "1", 1646, 2006-08-18 08:48:59, 0
+   "2", 1646, 2006-08-18 09:53:20, 100
+   '
R> z <- read.zoo(text = Lines, header = TRUE, sep = ",",
+   colClasses = c("NULL", "NULL", "character", "numeric"),
+   FUN = as.chron)
R> z
```

```
(08/18/06 08:48:59) (08/18/06 09:53:20)
                0                100
```

```
R> z2 <- read.zoo(text = Lines, header = TRUE, sep = ",",
+   colClasses = c("NULL", "NULL", "character", "numeric"),
+   tz = "")
R> z2
```

```
2006-08-18 08:48:59 2006-08-18 09:53:20
                0                100
```

Example 10

Input class: Text file/connection (space-separated with non-matching header).

Input index: 'factor' with labels indicating date (column 3) and time (column 4).

Output class: Multivariate 'zoo' series.

Output index: 'chron' (from **chron**) or 'POSIXct'.

Strategy: skip non-matching header and extract date/time from two columns `index = 3:4`. Either using sequence of two functions `FUN` and `FUN2` or employ defaults yielding 'POSIXct'.

```
R> Lines <-
+ " iteration      Datetime    VIC1    NSW1    SA1    QLD1
+ 1      1 2011-01-01 00:30 5482.09 7670.81 2316.22 5465.13
+ 2      1 2011-01-01 01:00 5178.33 7474.04 2130.30 5218.61
+ 3      1 2011-01-01 01:30 4975.51 7163.73 2042.39 5058.19
+ 4      1 2011-01-01 02:00 5295.36 6850.14 1940.19 4897.96
+ 5      1 2011-01-01 02:30 5042.64 6587.94 1836.19 4749.05
+ 6      1 2011-01-01 03:00 4799.89 6388.51 1786.32 4672.92
+ "
R> z <- read.zoo(text = Lines, skip = 1, index = 3:4,
+ FUN = paste, FUN2 = as.chron)
R> z
```

	V1	V2	V5	V6	V7	V8
(01/01/11 00:30:00)	1	1	5482.09	7670.81	2316.22	5465.13
(01/01/11 01:00:00)	2	1	5178.33	7474.04	2130.30	5218.61
(01/01/11 01:30:00)	3	1	4975.51	7163.73	2042.39	5058.19
(01/01/11 02:00:00)	4	1	5295.36	6850.14	1940.19	4897.96
(01/01/11 02:30:00)	5	1	5042.64	6587.94	1836.19	4749.05
(01/01/11 03:00:00)	6	1	4799.89	6388.51	1786.32	4672.92

```
R> z2 <- read.zoo(text = Lines, skip = 1, index = 3:4, tz = "")
R> z2
```

	V1	V2	V5	V6	V7	V8
2011-01-01 00:30:00	1	1	5482.09	7670.81	2316.22	5465.13
2011-01-01 01:00:00	2	1	5178.33	7474.04	2130.30	5218.61
2011-01-01 01:30:00	3	1	4975.51	7163.73	2042.39	5058.19
2011-01-01 02:00:00	4	1	5295.36	6850.14	1940.19	4897.96
2011-01-01 02:30:00	5	1	5042.64	6587.94	1836.19	4749.05
2011-01-01 03:00:00	6	1	4799.89	6388.51	1786.32	4672.92

Example 11

Input class: 'data.frame'.

Input index: 'Date'.

Output class: Multivariate 'zoo' series.

Output index: 'Date'.

Strategy: Given a 'data.frame' only keep last row in each month. Use `read.zoo()` to convert to 'zoo' and then `na.locf()` and `duplicated()`.

```
R> DF <- structure(list(
+   Date = structure(c(14609, 14638, 14640, 14666, 14668, 14699,
+     14729, 14757, 14759, 14760), class = "Date"),
+   A = c(4.9, 5.1, 5, 4.8, 4.7, 5.3, 5.2, 5.4, NA, 4.6),
+   B = c(18.4, 17.7, NA, NA, 18.3, 19.4, 19.7, NA, NA, 18.1),
+   C = c(32.6, NA, 32.8, NA, 33.7, 32.4, 33.6, NA, 34.5, NA),
+   D = c(77, NA, 78.7, NA, 79, 77.8, 79, 81.7, NA, NA)),
+   .Names = c("Date", "A", "B", "C", "D"), row.names = c(NA, -10L),
+   class = "data.frame")
R> DF
```

	Date	A	B	C	D
1	2009-12-31	4.9	18.4	32.6	77.0
2	2010-01-29	5.1	17.7	NA	NA
3	2010-01-31	5.0	NA	32.8	78.7
4	2010-02-26	4.8	NA	NA	NA
5	2010-02-28	4.7	18.3	33.7	79.0
6	2010-03-31	5.3	19.4	32.4	77.8
7	2010-04-30	5.2	19.7	33.6	79.0
8	2010-05-28	5.4	NA	NA	81.7
9	2010-05-30	NA	NA	34.5	NA
10	2010-05-31	4.6	18.1	NA	NA

```
R> z <- read.zoo(DF)
R> na.locf(z)[!duplicated(as.yearmon(time(z)), fromLast = TRUE)]
```

	A	B	C	D
2009-12-31	4.9	18.4	32.6	77.0
2010-01-31	5.0	17.7	32.8	78.7
2010-02-28	4.7	18.3	33.7	79.0
2010-03-31	5.3	19.4	32.4	77.8
2010-04-30	5.2	19.7	33.6	79.0
2010-05-31	4.6	18.1	34.5	81.7

Example 12

Input class: Text file/connection (space-separated without header).

Input index: 'factor' with labels indicating dates.

Output class: Univariate 'zoo' series.

Output index: 'Date'.

Strategy: Only keep last point in case of duplicate dates.

```
R> Lines <- "
+ 2009-10-07      0.009378
+ 2009-10-19      0.014790
+ 2009-10-23     -0.005946
+ 2009-10-23      0.009096
+ 2009-11-08      0.004189
+ 2009-11-10     -0.004592
+ 2009-11-17      0.009397
+ 2009-11-24      0.003411
+ 2009-12-02      0.003300
+ 2010-01-15      0.010873
+ 2010-01-20      0.010712
+ 2010-01-20      0.022237
+ "
R> z <- read.zoo(text = Lines, aggregate = function(x) tail(x, 1))
R> z
```

2009-10-07	2009-10-19	2009-10-23	2009-11-08	2009-11-10	2009-11-17	2009-11-24
0.009378	0.014790	0.009096	0.004189	-0.004592	0.009397	0.003411
2009-12-02	2010-01-15	2010-01-20				
0.003300	0.010873	0.022237				

Example 13

Input class: Text file/connection (comma-separated with header).

Input index: ‘factor’ with labels indicating date/time.

Output class: Multivariate ‘zoo’ series.

Output index: ‘POSIXct’ or ‘chron’ (from **chron**).

Strategy: Dates and times are in standard format, hence the default ‘POSIXct’ can be produced by setting **tz** or, alternatively, ‘chron’ can be produced by setting **as.chron()** as **FUN**.

```
R> Lines <- "
+ timestamp,time-step-index,value
+ 2009-11-23 15:58:21,23301,800
+ 2009-11-23 15:58:29,23309,950
+ "
R> z <- read.zoo(text = Lines, header = TRUE, sep = ",", tz = "")
R> z
```

	time.step.index	value
2009-11-23 15:58:21	23301	800
2009-11-23 15:58:29	23309	950

```
R> z2 <- read.zoo(text = Lines, header = TRUE, sep = ",", FUN = as.chron)
R> z2
```

	time.step.index	value
(11/23/09 15:58:21)	23301	800
(11/23/09 15:58:29)	23309	950

Example 14

Input class: Text file/connection (space-separated with header).

Input index: ‘factor’s with labels indicating dates (column 1) times (column 2).

Output class: Univariate ‘zoo’ series.

Output index: ‘chron’ (from **chron**).

Strategy: Indicate vector `index = 1:2` and use `chron()` (which takes two separate arguments for dates and times) to produce ‘chron’ index.

```
R> Lines <- "  
+ Date Time Value  
+ 01/23/2000 10:12:15 12.12  
+ 01/24/2000 11:10:00 15.00  
+ "  
R> z <- read.zoo(text = Lines, header = TRUE, index = 1:2, FUN = chron)  
R> z  
  
(01/23/00 10:12:15) (01/24/00 11:10:00)  
12.12 15.00
```


Example 15

Input class: Text file/connection (space-separated with header).

Input index: 'numeric' year with quarters represented by separate columns.

Output class: Univariate 'zoo' series.

Output index: 'yearqtr'.

Strategy: First, create a multivariate annual time series using the year index. Then, create a regular univariate quarterly series by collapsing the annual series to a vector and adding a new 'yearqtr' index from scratch.

```
R> Lines <- "
+ Year   Qtr1   Qtr2   Qtr3   Qtr4
+ 1992    566    443    329    341
+ 1993    344    212    133    112
+ 1994    252    252    199    207
+ "
R> za <- read.zoo(text = Lines, header = TRUE)
R> za
```

```
      Qtr1 Qtr2 Qtr3 Qtr4
1992  566  443  329  341
1993  344  212  133  112
1994  252  252  199  207
```

```
R> zq <- zooreg(as.vector(t(za)), start = yearqtr(start(za)), freq = 4)
R> zq
```

```
1992 Q1 1992 Q2 1992 Q3 1992 Q4 1993 Q1 1993 Q2 1993 Q3 1993 Q4 1994 Q1 1994 Q2
      566      443      329      341      344      212      133      112      252      252
1994 Q3 1994 Q4
      199      207
```

Further comments

Multiple files can be read and subsequently merged.

```
R> filenames <- dir(pattern = "csv$")  
R> z <- read.zoo(filenames, header = TRUE, sep = ",", fixed = FALSE)
```

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