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Subject: Re: how to find number of lines in an ASCII file?  
Posted by [Paul Krummel](#) on Fri, 21 Aug 1998 07:00:00 GMT  
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Paul Krummel wrote in message <35dba688.0@news>...  
> Jason Li wrote in message <6rdfig\$756@post.gsfc.nasa.gov>...  
>> I have an ASCII text file that contains data in a nice tabular form,  
>>  
>> 0 28660 1827.1 72.7705 -158.8828 3388.0 22.3846  
10.8545  
>> 1 28661 1827.7 72.7701 -158.8752 3391.0 21.1213  
10.6029  
>> 2 28662 1828.3 72.7698 -158.8677 3394.0 19.8743  
10.3546  
>> .  
>> .  
>> .  
>>  
>> I want to read them all and save into an array: data[8, numberOfLines].  
But  
>> I don't know numberOfLines in the file before hand. What is the most  
> efficient  
>> way to find that out?  
>>  
>> On UNIX, I can pass number of lines information back from wc command. Of  
>> course the same code won't work a on Mac. Please help.  
>  
>  
> Below are two functions that I use regularly. I have used them on both  
> Windows and UNIX and they work fine. They should be platform independent  
and  
> I find them to be efficient!  
> They were originally written by R. Bauer and I have modified them.  
>  
> Hope this helps  
>  
> Cheers Paul Krummel  
>  
Whoops! Just noticed that you will also need the routine below called  
type.pro. Sorry for that.

Cheers Paul

```
;+  
; NAME:  
; TYPE  
;  
; PURPOSE:
```

```

; Finds the type class of a variable.
;
; CATEGORY:
; Programming.
;
; CALLING SEQUENCE:
; Result = TYPE(X)
;
; INPUTS:
;   X
; Arbitrary, doesn't even need to be defined.
;
; OUTPUTS:
; Returns the type of X as a long integer, in the (0,11) range.
; 0 Undefined
; 1 Byte
; 2 Integer
; 3 Long integer
; 4 Float
; 5 Double precision
; 6 Complex number
; 7 String
; 8 Structure
; 9 Double complex
; 10 Pointer
; 11 Object reference
;
; PROCEDURE:
; Extracts information from the SIZE function.
;
; EXAMPLE:
; To find the type class of a variable:
; IDL> print,TYPE(7)
; 2
; IDL> print,TYPE(7D)
; 5
; IDL> print,TYPE('7')
; 7
;
; MODIFICATION HISTORY:
; Created 15-JUL-1991 by Mati Meron, University of Chicago.
; Modified 7 November 1997 by Paul Krummel,
; CSIRO Division of Atmospheric Research.
; Added in help message and expanded header
; info (Pointers and Object references).
;
;-
Function Type, x, help=help

```

```
;
;
on_error,2
if keyword_set(help) then begin
    doc_library,'TYPE'
endif
;
;
; +++++
    dum = size(x)
    return, dum(dum(0) + 1)
;
;
; +++++
;
;
end
```

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