
Subject: Re: how to find number of lines in an ASCII file?

Posted by [mallors](#) on Thu, 20 Aug 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <6rdfg\$756@post.gsfc.nasa.gov>,
jyli@redback.gsfc.nasa.gov (Jason Li) writes:

> Hi,

>

> 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?

Here is yet another method:

IDL does not need to know the number of lines in the file. It will dynamically increase the array for you. Assuming you know how many columns are in the file, I would read it into an array of structures as follows:

```
data = {c1: 0L, c2: 0L, c3: 0.0, ..., c8: 0.0}
```

```
data_in = data
```

```
OPENR, FL, file, /GET_LUN
```

```
  READF, FL, data
```

```
  WHILE (NOT EOF (FL)) DO BEGIN
```

```
    READF, FL, data_in
```

```
    data = [data, data_in]
```

```
  ENDWHILE
```

```
FREE_LUN, FL
```

Now data is an array of structures. The array length is the number of lines in the column. One caveat: this method won't work if any of the columns are STRING data.

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