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

Posted by [Phillip & Suzanne\[2\]](#) on Tue, 18 Aug 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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Jason Li wrote:

```
>
> 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?
```

The simplest method I've found for this is to read the data into a text array
as follows:

```
line=""
readf, lun, line
text = [line]
while (not eof(lun)) do begin
  readf, lun, line
  text = [text, line]
endwhile
data = fltarr[8, N_Elements(text)]
tmpdata = fltarr[8]
for i=0, N_Elements(text)-1 do begin
  reads, text[i], tmpdata
  data[* , i] = tmpdata
endfor
```

Phillip
