
Subject: Re: Reading files with unknown amount of data

Posted by [alans](#) on Thu, 04 Nov 1993 16:09:34 GMT

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I always thought the best approach to the "growing array" problem was to "cache" the data in an array of a KByte or so. When the "cache" is full, append to array. So, rewriting the previously posted example program this way yields:

```
function read_vl_file, filename
```

```
  ; yes, I *did* test this, but didn't benchmark it...
```

```
  a = 0.0
```

```
  i = 0
```

```
  csize = 1024
```

```
  cache = fltarr (csize)
```

```
  openr, lun, filename, /get_lun
```

```
  while (not eof (lun)) do begin
```

```
    readf, lun, a
```

```
    cache(i) = a
```

```
    i = (i + 1) mod csize
```

```
    if (i eq 0) then $
```

```
      if ((size (out))(0) gt 0) then $
```

```
        out = [temporary (out),cache] else $
```

```
        out = cache
```

```
  endwhile
```

```
  close, lun
```

```
  free_lun, lun
```

```
  ; grab the rest of the cache.
```

```
  if (i gt 0) then $
```

```
    if ((size (out))(0) gt 0) then $
```

```
      out = [temporary (out),cache(0:i-1)] else $
```

```
      out = cache(0:i-1)
```

```
  return, out
```

```
end
```

Anyway, if there are better ways to do this, I'd sure love to hear about them.

--

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