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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