
Subject: Re: Reading files with unknown amount of data
Posted by [brau1231](#) on Thu, 04 Nov 1993 11:12:27 GMT

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In article <28fbv1\$qq6@reznor.larc.nasa.gov>, zawodny@arbd0.larc.nasa.gov (Dr Joseph M Zawodny) writes:

```
|> >Robert Davis (rdavis@aerospace.aero.org) wrote:  
|> >I am trying to read a data file containing an unknown amount of data into  
|> >arrays in IDL. I know the format of the data in the file, but not the number  
|> >of pieces of data in the file. Currently, I read the file twice; once to  
|> >determine the amount of data in the file and then a second time to actually  
|> >read the data into an array (now that I know the size of array needed).  
|> >Is there a better way to do this (without having to read the file twice)?  
|>  
|> Use the EOF function in IDL. Try something like this:  
|>  
|>
```

That's good, but you can also add entry's to a array.
IDL let grow the array automatically, too.

```
array=0.    ; to initialize a variable called array
```

```
openr,lun,filename, /get_lun    ; no interest of 'lun's name  
    point_lun,lun,0            ; but 'lun' know what I mean  
                                ; (logical unit number)
```

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

```
;I use mostly
```

```
    readf,lun,a    ; reading the entry of 'lun'
```

```
    array=[array,a] ; idl set the variable 'array' (if existing)  
                    ; to the right dimensions / append one entry  
                    ; so-called 'a'
```

```
endwhile
```

```
close,lun
```

```
    free_lun,lun
```

```
;cut the first entry of the array (array=0.)
```

```
    array=(1:*)
```

from now on, the array 'array' has all entries and the right dimension.

--

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