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Subject: Re: reading long files

Posted by [knipp](#) on Mon, 08 Nov 1993 10:51:21 GMT

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In article 9nn@organpipe.uug.arizona.edu, rdc@helium.gas.uug.arizona.edu (richard d clark) writes:

>  
> A previous post mentions a two pass method of reading the file first  
> determining the necessary size of the array and then reading into it. For  
> people running on unix systems spawning a 'wc' will accomplish the first  
> pass faster than reading it with idl. Our wc returns # lines, # words, and  
> # characters in the file so the array dimensions can be calculated by your  
...  
> Richard Clark  
> rclark@lpl.arizona.edu (or the address in the header)  
> For the 10,000th time: it's in Astronomical Algorithms by Jean Meeus!

Another way to count just the number of lines in a file (!UNDER UNIX) is:

```
awk "END {print NR}" >filename<
```

Use SPAWN and capture the output in a variable.

A more general way is to count the number of carr.returns in the file:

```
CR_BYTE = 10b ; (p.e. for UNIX-Systems)
```

```
OPENR, UNIT, FILENAME, /GET_LUN  
INFO = FSTAT(UNIT)  
I = ASSOC(UNIT, BYTARR(INFO.SIZE))  
POS = WHERE(I(0) EQ CR_BYTE)  
FREE_LUN, UNIT
```

```
NOF_LINES = N_ELEMENTS(POS)
```

Karl

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