Subject: Re: Reading files with unknown amount of data
Posted by zawodny on Thu, 30 Sep 1993 19:27:29 GMT

> 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:

```
a = fltarr(n) ; or whatever is appropriate for your records

openr,1,filename

while not eof(1) do begin

 readu,1,a
 .
 . ; Process it
 .

 endwhile

 close,1


.
. ; More processing or plotting or whatever.
.
```

This should work as I use this all the time.

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