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Subject: Reading files with unknown amount of data  
Posted by [rdavis](#) on Wed, 29 Sep 1993 20:53:00 GMT  
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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)?

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