
Subject: Re: simple question about bytes
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Fri, 03 Sep 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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rappold wrote:

```
> Hi,
>
> I want to check if a line in an ascii file starts with a number or
> character. My idea was to read the first character and convert it to
> "byte" and check if its in or out the range of '48b' and '58b'. The code
> example is :
>
>   ; check for header
>   header=""
>   readf, lun, header
>   firstchar=strmid(header,0,1)
>   first_byte=byte(firstchar)
>
>   no_head=0
>   head_index=0
>   WHILE ((first_byte LT 48b) AND (first_byte GT 57b)) DO BEGIN
>       readf, lun, header      ; reads next line
>       head_index=head_index+1 ; counts header lines
>       no_header =head_index
>   ENDWHILE
>   ...
```

You have to use the first index type e.g.

```
WHILE ((first_byte[0] LT 48b) AND (first_byte[0] GT 57b)) DO BEGIN
```

you can declare header as bytarr with one element

```
header=bytarr(1)
readf, lun, header
first_byte=header[0]
```

R.Bauer
