Subject: That filelength question - again ....
Posted by jeyadev on Mon, 09 Feb 2004 20:47:11 GMT

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Sometime back there was thread about how to determine the length
of files, but did not follow it ....

Faced suddenly with a huge bunch of files with varying lengths,
but, thankfully, the same number of columns, I was looking for
the answer to the question ... but did not find it. So the
following kludge:

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```
;    Function to find out the number of lines in a simple
;    ASCII file

function filelength , filename

cmd = 'spawn, ' + " 'wc -l " + filename + ' | sed "s/' + filename + '//"'
cmd = cmd + "', s1"

; s1 is a string array with just one element

filelength = -1
val = execute(cmd)
if(val eq 1) then filelength = atoi(s1(0))  ;  command executed properly
if(val eq 0) then print, "  *** Error in finding no. of lines *** "

return, filelength
end
```

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where 'atoi' is just the same as the corresponding C function. It
removes leading and trailing blanks from a string and returns the
corresponding integer value.

Seems to work allright, but the fact that I did not find it in any
of the sites began to make me wonder. Am I overlooking something
here?

Have to confess that not all the error checking that ought to be
done is done here -- but then, again, I know more about my data
files :-)

For completeness, here is atoi.pro

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```
;   Function that mimics the C 'atoi' function
;   Leading and trailing blanks are removed before conversion

;   Remove leading and trailing blanks in string by using
;    strtrim(str, 2)

function atoi, str

str = strtrim(str, 2)    ; trim leading and trailing blanks
l = strlen(str)
m = fix(byte(str)) - 48

a = 0
for i=0,l-1 do a = a + m(i)*10^(l-1-i)

return, a

end
```

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atoi.pro was written solely for dealing with filenames and
I never intended 'a' to be larger than 9999. Hope I never
have to deal with that many data files!
thanks
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