Subject: Re: Q: About reading files into an array without knowing the size.
Posted by rivers on Mon, 06 Nov 1995 08:00:00 GMT
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In article <DHMELp.JDM@news.dlr.de>, Hermann Mannstein <H.Mannstein@dlr.de> writes:
> David van Kuijk <kuijk@mpi.nl> wrote:
>> Hi
>>
>> One of the nice things of IDL is that it is possible to read whole
>> ASCII-files of data (e.g. floats) into an array in one swoop, without
>> having to go through a while loop which reads all of these numbers one by
>> one. E.g.:
>>
>> OPENR,1, "filename"
>> floatss=FLTARR(10000)
>> READF, 1, floatss
>>
>> What is not so nice is that IDL has to know exactly how many datapoints
>> there are in the file, otherwise not all the data are read, or you get
>> sth like an "End of file encountered"-error. So the size of _floatss_ in
>> the example above should be equal to the number of floats in the
>
> with
> OPENR,1, "filename"
> a=fstat(1)
> floatss=fltarr(a.size/4)
> READF, 1, floatss
>
> you will get what you want, but you have to know, what type of data "filename"
> contains.
> --

This will not work. "a.size/4" would be the number of elements in the array in
a BINARY file, but the original question concerned ASCII files. In and ASCII
file the number of bytes/element is not known in advance, and it may not even
be the same for each array element.

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