
Subject: Re: counting elements in files

Posted by [Andy Loughe](#) on Wed, 24 Jul 1996 07:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Gideon Z Romm wrote:

>
> I have a file with a bunch of numbers stored in it, formatted. It looks
> something like this:
>
> 2555 3456 4567 5678 6789 7890
> 2345 6788 3445 6778 8899 9900
> ..
> ..
> ..
>
> I am having trouble finding a procedure that will count the number of
> elements in this file, so that when I create an array into which to read
> this file, I will know what size to make the array.
> Any suggestions?
>
> Gadi

If the number of columns is fixed, why not use... `cat filename | wc -l`
in an IDL spawn command, then multiply that by the number of columns
you know to be in the file.

Or, if you know the number of columns, you could use free formatted read
(as long as there commas, whitespace, or tabs) and use the while not eof
logic. That way you don't even need to know the total number of
elements in the file.

Does this help, or am I way out in left field?

--

Andrew F. Loughe afl@cdc.noaa.gov
University of Colorado, CIRES http://cdc.noaa.gov/~afl
Campus Box 449 phn:(303)492-0707 fax:(303)497-7013
Boulder, CO 80309-0449 "He who laughs last thinks slowest!"
