
Subject: Re: slow file-handling

Posted by [James Tappin](#) on Tue, 03 Sep 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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Jorn Helbert wrote:

```
>
> Hi,
> I have a problem reading in a large data-file
> the file consist of 57422 rows with the following format
> t foo foo foo bx by bz
>
> all double floating and I need the foo-values not. if i just read it
> line by line it takes nearly ten minutes on a sparc twenty. my read
> block is the following
>   b_temp = double([0.,0.,0.])
>   t_temp = [0.0]
>   WHILE NOT eof(u1) DO BEGIN
>     readf,u1,t_temp,foo,foo,foo,b_temp
>     t_u = [t_u,t_temp]
>     b_u = [b_u,b_temp]
>   END
>
> I don't know before how long the file is. so I have to use the temporary
> values.
> Any ideas how to speed this up?
>
> cheers
> jorn
>
> --
> Joern Helbert
>
> Space and atmospheric physics group
> Imperial College - London
> phone: 0171 594-7764
```

One possibility on a unix box is to spawn "wc" to see how many lines there are (if you need VMS portability, then select that or FSTAT according to the operating system [!version.os] -- I don't know about PC's & macs)

So you'd have something like:

```
spawn, 'wc '+filename, res
nrecs=fix(res)      ; Number of lines is first field in WC output
```

```
inarr =dblarr(7,nrecs)
```

```
openr, iu, /get, filename
```

readf, iu, inarr

```
t_u = transpose(float(inarr(0,*))) ; Assuming you really need to go
    ; back to single precision, transpose
    ; Otherwise it will be a (1,n) array
b_u = inarr(4:6, *)
```

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+-----+-----+-----+
| James Tappin,      | School of Physics & Space Research | O__ |
| sjt@star.sr.bham.ac.uk | University of Birmingham    | -- V^ |
| Ph: 0121-414-6462. Fax: 0121-414-3722      | |
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```
