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Subject: Re: How to read first and last line of an ascii file FAST

Posted by [Jeremy Bailin](#) on Mon, 30 Aug 2010 01:27:15 GMT

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On Aug 29, 11:32 am, ahs <agna...@gmail.com> wrote:

> Hello group,  
>  
> My data is stored in a bunch of ascii files, each 5-10MB big. Each  
> line represent a sample with a timestamp. I would like to analyse all  
> my files by reading the timestamp from the first and last line of  
> every file. Getting the timestamp from the last line is the issue  
> here. Right now I'm doing it like  
>  
> readf, fid, firstline  
> nlines = FILE\_LINES(fnames[i])  
> skip\_lun, fid, nlines-2, /LINES  
> readf, fid, lastline  
>  
> skip\_lun is really slow when the files are big and numerous. Does  
> anyone have a tip of I could do this faster? Is there a way to  
> directly point to the end of the file minus one line?  
>  
> regards,  
> Agnar

What OS? On unix and Mac, I'd just spawn "tail -1 filename". No idea if there's a Windows equivalent.

-Jeremy.

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