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

Posted by [agnarhs](#) on Sun, 29 Aug 2010 15:32:15 GMT

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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

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