
Subject: Counting header lines in a file
Posted by [thtran296](#) on Fri, 21 Jul 2017 20:59:06 GMT
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Hello guys,

I have a .dat file that looks like this:

Date: May 5, 2016
Name: a person's name goes here
Experiment with temperature blabla

Day.	Temperature
1	56
2	62
3	63
4	95

Anyway, you get the idea.

So I'm trying to read in just the numeric part of the data (the 2 cols of numbers), and ignore the headers.

Here's what I have so far:

```
lineofheaders = 5
file = 'tryhard.dat'
rows = file_lines(file)           ;count rows of entire file
openr, lun, file, /get_pun
header = strarr(lineofheaders). ;pre-allocate to read the header
readf, lun, header
point_lun, -lun, currentlocation
line = ""
readf, lun, line
cols = n_elements(float(strsplit(line, /regex)))
data = fltarr(cols, rows - lineofheaders)
point_lun, lun, currentlocation
readf, lun, data
free_lun, lun
```

The above code did work, of course. However, my problem is that I always have to know in advance the number of lines that the header takes up. For example, in this file the header takes up 5 lines, so I will start reading data from line 6 till end of file.

Is there any way to still do the above, without knowing in advance how many lines the header takes up?

Thank you so much.
Thomas
