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Subject: Re: Extracting info from the ASCII file with IDL  
Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Thu, 18 Nov 2010 16:27:21 GMT  
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In article

<33c71657-40d7-4f24-9752-553f1ff7ec9b@j1g2000vbl.googlegroups.com>,  
Sasha Singh <sashasingh.511@gmail.com> wrote:

> Hi,  
> I have a ASCII text file whose entries look like this  
>  
> 111        AA        25    XX  
> 111        AB        -5    XX  
> 222        AC        25    XX  
> 222        AD        20    XX  
> 222        AE        21    XX  
> 333        AF        88    XX  
> 444        AG        21    XX  
> 444        AH        90    XX  
> and so on.....  
> In this file the first column represents a unique number refering to  
> an experiment. Any particular experiment  
> was repeated a random number of times, such as experiment 111 was  
> repeated twice, experiment 222 was  
> repeated 3 times, experiment 333 was done only once. I need to know  
> how many unique experiments were done.  
> To clarify it further, in above example 4 experiments (111, 222, 333  
> and 444) were done. I need to know this in a file which has 1300 rows.  
> Please help.

Read the file. Sort the first column. Then use UNIQ.

Ken Bowman

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Subject: Re: Extracting info from the ASCII file with IDL  
Posted by [Gray](#) on Thu, 18 Nov 2010 16:40:36 GMT  
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On Nov 18, 10:38 am, Sasha Singh <sashasingh....@gmail.com> wrote:

> Hi,  
> I have a ASCII text file whose entries look like this  
>  
> 111        AA        25    XX  
> 111        AB        -5    XX  
> 222        AC        25    XX  
> 222        AD        20    XX  
> 222        AE        21    XX

> 333        AF        88    XX  
> 444        AG        21    XX  
> 444        AH        90    XX  
> and so on.....  
> In this file the first column represents a unique number refering to  
> an experiment. Any particular experiment  
> was repeated a random number of times, such as experiment 111 was  
> repeated twice, experiment 222 was  
> repeated 3 times, experiment 333 was done only once. I need to know  
> how many unique experiments were done.  
> To clarify it further, in above example 4 experiments (111, 222, 333  
> and 444) were done. I need to know this in a file which has 1300 rows.  
> Please help.

Use READCOL from the NASA IDL astronomy library to read the first column. Then do `n_elements(uniq(data,sort(data)))`.

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Subject: Re: Extracting info from the ASCII file with IDL  
Posted by [penteado](#) on Thu, 18 Nov 2010 16:55:40 GMT  
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On Nov 18, 2:40 pm, Gray <grayliketheco...@gmail.com> wrote:  
> Use READCOL from the NASA IDL astronomy library to read the first  
> column. Then do `n_elements(uniq(data,sort(data)))`.

Or use the built in `read_ascii()`. Like:

```
IDL> a=((read_ascii('unascii.txt')).(0))[0,*]  
IDL> print,n_elements(uniq(a[sort(a)]))  
4
```

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