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Subject: Re: counting elements in files

Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Wed, 24 Jul 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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Gideon Z Romm wrote:

> I have a file with a bunch of numbers stored in it, formatted. It looks

> something like this:

> 2555 3456 4567 5678 6789 7890

> 2345 6788 3445 6778 8899 9900

> ..

> ..

> ..

>

> I am having trouble finding a procedure that will count the number of

> elements in this file, so that when I create an array into which to read

> this file, I will know what size to make the array.

Get Fred Knight's DDREAD procedure. You can grab his user library from

[ftp://ftp.rsinc.com/pub/user\\_contrib/knight](ftp://ftp.rsinc.com/pub/user_contrib/knight)

It will handle this data file no problem.

(Ray, this is getting to be a FAQ - I know I've answered it at least 3 times).

Cheers,

Liam.

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Subject: Re: counting elements in files

Posted by [Thomas A. McGlynn](#) on Wed, 24 Jul 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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Andy Loughe wrote:

>

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>> Gadi  
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> If the number of columns is fixed, why not use... cat filename | wc -l  
> in an IDL spawn command, then multiply that by the number of columns  
> you know to be in the file.  
>  
...  
>  
> Does this help, or am I way out in left field?  
>  
> --  
> Andrew F. Loughe                      afl@cdc.noaa.gov

If you're going to use wc, you probably just want to use 'wc -w' to count the words directly. Of course if you don't have wc it can be a little more difficult. If the file is fixed format you may be able to do a calculation based upon the size of the file.

Good luck,  
Tom McGlynn  
tam@silk.gsfc.nasa.gov

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Subject: Re: counting elements in files  
Posted by [Andy Loughe](#) on Wed, 24 Jul 1996 07:00:00 GMT  
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> Gadi

If the number of columns is fixed, why not use... cat filename | wc -l

in an IDL spawn command, then multiply that by the number of columns you know to be in the file.

Or, if you know the number of columns, you could use free formatted read (as long as there commas, whitespace, or tabs) and use the while not eof logic. That way you don't even need to know the total number of elements in the file.

Does this help, or am I way out in left field?

--

Andrew F. Loughe                      afl@cdc.noaa.gov  
University of Colorado, CIRES      http://cdc.noaa.gov/~afl  
Campus Box 449                      phn:(303)492-0707    fax:(303)497-7013  
Boulder, CO 80309-0449              "He who laughs last thinks slowest!"

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