

NAME

newfile - data file management

SYNOPSIS

```
newfile [file_name] [current_scan_number]
```

DESCRIPTION

The `newfile` macro is used to initialize a new data file or reopen an old data file. You might open a new data file for each new sample or each new experiment. There is no specific limit to the number of scans you can put in a data file, although for practical considerations, you may want to start a new file after you have accumulated one or two hundred scans or when the size of the data file makes it unwieldy.

If *file_name* doesn't contain the `/` character, and if there is a directory named *data* in the current directory, the file is opened in that directory. If you give `null` as a file name, `/dev/null` is used. Otherwise the file name or path name given by *file_name* is used.

The next scan written to the file will have scan number `current_scan_number + 1`.

You can use `newfile` to reopen an existing data file. New scans will be placed at the end of the file. You can use command `u grep #S file_name` to find the last scan number in an existing file.

GLOBALS

DATAFILE - Global variable holding name of the current data file. Its value is written in the data file header preceded by `#F`.

SCAN_N - Global variable holding current scan number. Its value is written in the data file scan headers preceded by `#S`.

EPOCH - Constant variable holding the time at which the data file was opened. Its value is written in the data file header preceded by `#E`.

TITLE - Global variable written as a comment in the data file header. Its value is an arbitrary string set by the user.

EXAMPLE

```
newfile Au110.12
```

SEE ALSO

startup scans