

# Dealing with a large number of files

When working with very large sets of minc files (> ~800) in RMINC you may run into the following error:

```
Not enough available file descriptors to open <N> files, maybe try setting ulimit -Sn <some-larger-number>
```

R can only maintain a certain number of open files at a given time, if RMINC determines that you cannot open enough files to safely run your command it will issue the error above. In order to fix this problem:

- Close the R session, and exit R studio if you are using it.
- Open a terminal and check your current hard limit for open files with `ulimit -Hn`, here at MICe the number will likely be 4096
- Set a new ulimit to be the hardlimit with `ulimit -Sn 4096` or whatever your hardlimit turns out to be
- Restart R/Rstudio from this terminal (the ulimit is local to a bash session, other terminals will be unaffected).