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Solution to exercise 1.3

The data file can be downloaded from here: [months.txt.gz](#). To unpack it, type:

```
gunzip months.txt.gz
```

There are several solutions to this exercise.

One can observe that the months which names end with 'er' are the last four months and can use `tail` command to select the four last lines from the file:

```
cat months.txt | tail -n 4 | numsum -c -x 3
```

This solution uses `numsum` command to calculate the sum of numbers in the third column (on Debian it requires the package 'num-utils' to be installed).

One can also use the `grep` utility to select the lines with substring 'er':

```
cat months.txt | grep 'er' | numsum -c -x 3
```

If `numsum` utility is not available one can use one-liner¹⁾, for instance in AWK language:

```
cat months.txt | grep 'er' | awk '{s=s+$3} END {print s}'
```

It is also possible to use Octave to calculate the sum, though in this case, one has to save the numbers in a temporary file:

```
cat months.txt | grep 'er' | cut -s -d " " -f 3 > tmpMonths  
octave -q --eval "disp(sum(load('tmpMonths'))); exit"
```

¹⁾

a program fitting in one line, see [Wikipedia](#)

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Last update: **2017/10/02 15:54**

