
Subject: Re: [Q] Reading from file, speed
Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 10 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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Koen Janssens (janssens@ifu.bepr.ethz.ch) writes:

> I am looking for a better way to import data into IDL, the one I am
> using now seems very slow (about 20 secs for reading in 2 MBytes). Here
> is the script that I use:

```
>  
> openr, ms_dat_unit, ms_dat_file  
> ms = bytarr(dimx,dimy,dimz)  
> for z = 0,(dimz-1) do begin  
>   for y = 0,(dimy-1) do begin  
>     for x = 0,(dimx-1) do begin  
>       readu, ms_dat_unit, tmp  
>       ms[x,y,z] = tmp  
>     endfor  
>   endfor  
> endfor  
> close, ms_dat_unit  
> free_lun, ms_dat_unit  
>
```

> The file I am reading contains integers in binary format (volume data
> 128^3).

IDL is sometimes considered a loopy language, but
it is definitely NOT a looping language. :-)

Those FOR loops are killing you. Try something
like this:

```
openr, ms_dat_unit, ms_dat_file, /get_lun  
ms = bytarr(dimx,dimy,dimz)  
readu, ms_dat_unit, ms  
free_lun, ms_dat_unit
```

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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