Subject: Re: How to read a file in zip or gz format using IDL?
Posted by 8015 on Thu, 04 Aug 1994 15:34:26 GMT
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In article <31ocemINNbqu@maz4.sma.ch>, Tan, Jun <j.tan@rutherford.ac.uk> wrote:
>
> I am asking for help to read a file in zip or gz format using IDL. At the
> moment, I have a huge data file in ASCII format about 10 Mbytes, it thus
> takes a long time to read in all the data. I wonder it may take less time if
> the data is compressed using either zip or gzip methods. But how can I read
> such compressed file? Any advice over there is highly appreciated.
>

I'll start by assuming we're referring to IDL in a unix environment.
You can use the spawn command to manager this. Create a command string
such as:

cmd = "uncompress -c comp_file" ; comp_file is the compressed file
spawn, cmd, uncomp_file ; uncomp_file will have the uncompressed data

The -c decompresses to stdout. Also the zcat command (linked to
uncompress) will do the same thing. This way you won't have to 'rm' the
file afterwards. I'm sure gzip has the same facility and could be used
just as easily.

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