
Subject: Re: convert very large string to numeric
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 26 Aug 2003 16:59:34 GMT
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Mirko Vukovic wrote:

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>
> Paul van Delst <paul.vandelst@noaa.gov> wrote in message
news:<3F4A7ADE.AF8396AD@noaa.gov>...
>> Mirko Vukovic wrote:
>>>
>>> Hello,
>>>
>>> I have a large two column matrix stored as a string,
>>
>> Forgive my denseness, but what do you mean exactly when you say you "have a large two
>> column matrix stored as a string"? By stored do you mean on disk as an ASCII file, or in a
>> variable as an actual character variable?
>>
>> If the latter, my next question is: how did it get that way? (It's not a facetious
>> question...I'm fishing for more details)
>>
>> paulv
>
> Hmmm. It seems that my exposition was lacking in crucial details.
>
> The data is coming from an E&M simulation program (Maxwell 2D,
> student version). The really gory details are as follows:
>
> - From Maxwell I generate the text file with the data.
> - With an editor, and insert some XML tags. The file now has a
> snippet that looks as follows, and whose contents I need to get into
> IDL
>
> <Data-Set>
> 239843420958.0 23049823048.023984032
> 3240.83240 0239483.2094
> 20348.3204 20394803.24
> .
> .
> .
> 39458.7435 348324.497324
> </Data-Set>
>
> - I use IDL's XML reader (properly customized via inheritance) to read
> the data.
```

O.k., so it's the XML read that sticks the data into one big string.

Why not just read the ASCII datafile in one big block and skip the XML read? It'll be a lot faster.

- > You may wonder why use XML. Well, It strated out as a challenge.
- > But, after I did it for the first time, I was really impressed that I
- > could add some intelligent information to my data files, and my file
- > reader would be able to read them, or skip them, or whatever. So for
- > now, I continue to use them.

How about rather than <Data-Set> you add the number of lines in this data set? (That's intelligent information too :o) Then your reader can read the number of lines, allocate the required size array and read everything in at once. Using XML may be a little bit easier (don't have to count the lines) but you're effectively reading the data twice - once from file and once from string->variable.

I doubt this will solve your problem because it seems too simple (my solution, I mean. Not your problem.)

paulv

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