
Subject: Re: Very slow IDL vs Matlab (ascii file reading)
Posted by [Richard French](#) on Wed, 05 Nov 2003 12:22:50 GMT
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On 11/5/03 7:13 AM, in article BBCE5389.FEA%rfrench@wellesley.edu, "Richard G. French" <rfrench@wellesley.edu> wrote:

>
> I can reproduce this problem on MacOS with IDL6.0 - but it does not seem
> like a problem with 'width' to me, since that is related to writing the file
> - the problem is with reading a large single-line file in free format. It
> amazes me that it takes many minutes to read this file, and I think it is a
> definite bug. I'd suggest that you report this to RSI.
>
> Dick French
>

I tried to do an end-run by reading the file in as a string, and then using
READS to extract the required information from the string:

```
Openr,lun,/GET_LUN,'MyData.dat'  
S=""  
Readf,lun,s  
Free_lun,lun  
This gets executed almost instantaneously.  
Help,s  
S          STRING   = '    999.00000    999.00000    999'...  
Print,strlen(s)  
5237760
```

```
Data=fltarr(660,496)  
Reads,s,data
```

This takes forever, too. So, we've shown that the problem is not an I/O
problem, but one related to the actual parsing of the long string. What the
heck is happening during all of those CPU cycles? READS needs some serious
attention!

Dick French
