Subject: Re: Very slow IDL vs Matlab (ascii file reading)
Posted by R.Bauer on Wed, 05 Nov 2003 07:11:58 GMT
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Marcin Jakubowski wrote:

> Hi all,
> I've tried to read an ASCII file, which is composed of one very long row
> (660*496) double precision numbers, each of them delimited with
> tabulator. In Matlab 6.5 I am using small program
>
> ==========
> fid = fopen('Mydata.dat');
> data = fscanf(fid,'%g',[660,496]);
> fclose(fid)
> ==========
>
> and it takes about one second to read the file. If I try to do similar
> in IDL 6.0
>
> ==========
> data = FltArr(660, 496)
> OpenR, lun, 'Mydata.dat', /Get_Lun
> ReadF, lun, data
> Free_Lun, lun
> ==========
>
> then it takes about 20 minutes (!!!) to read the same file. What causes
> the problem? Unfortunately I need to use the IDL as it is a part of huge
> code written in IDL. Is it any chance to shorten that time?
>
>
> Many thanks in advance,
> Marcin
>
> P.s. I've performed checks on PC and Linux machines and the outcomes are
> similar.

My previous examples does not have all data in one line!!!
(It's always easier to check if a complete example is provided to us)

Here is an example to create the data file.

```
x=make_array(/double,value=999D,660L*496L)
w=17l*660L*496L
openw,lun,/get_l,'Mydata.dat',width=w
```

printf,lun,x
free_lun,lun

By reading this data I got the same problem as described above.
This could be a bug in width. Any ideas?

I would suggest to use a shell command to split the lines after 1000 numbers
in new lines. On linux this could be done by sed.

Reimar

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a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich
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