
Subject: Very slow IDL vs Matlab (ascii file reading)

Posted by [Marcin Jakubowski](#) on Tue, 04 Nov 2003 20:55:39 GMT

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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.
