
Subject: Re: Reading columns of binary data
Posted by [Foldy Lajos](#) on Tue, 08 Aug 2006 14:57:41 GMT
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On Mon, 7 Aug 2006, JD Smith wrote:

```
> I'd regard this as yet another example of why IDL needs a fast
> compiled "side-loop" primitive for generic looping operations which
> don't need the full conveniences of the interpreter loop (ability to
> hit Control-C to interrupt, etc.). I should be able to say:
>
> a=fltarr(500000,/NO_ZERO)
> f=0.0
> for_noblock i=0L,500000L-1L do begin
>   point_lun,un,i*100L
>   readu,un,f
>   a[i]=f
> endfor
>
> and not have it be 100x slower than the equivalent in C.
>
> JD
>
```

Hi,

I mentioned assoc yesterday, so let's try again:

```
arr=assoc(un, [0.])
for i=0L,500000L-1L do a[i]=arr[25I*i]
```

it will do the point_lun/readu in one step, so it should be a little bit faster. But I think a faster loop here would not help much, as disk I/O is the limiting factor.

regards,
lajos
