
Subject: Re: edit a large dataset

Posted by [Peter Clinch](#) on Wed, 03 Oct 2007 14:58:50 GMT

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queiny wrote:

> Hi, I have a large dataset (>1e7 records). One field of the record is
> a string 'landuse'. Now I want to add one more field based on the
> 'landuse', i.e., if it is 'forest', then add 'aa', if it is 'urban',
> then add 'bb', etc.. Since there are more than 20 different landuse,
> use 'if-then', or 'case' for each record will be quite inefficient.

I generally find Perl is much better for hacking data sets than IDL,
because systematically fiddling with file contents is what it does very
well. Once it's been suitably butchered, then into IDL for the actual
crunching of numbers that IDL does very well.

Pete.

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