Subject: Re: Read large ascii file quickly
Posted by David Fanning on Fri, 07 Jan 2011 00:06:08 GMT
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Paulo Penteado writes:

> It is what I would do for a large file, except that I do not see why
> make data 1D then reform it, instead of making it 2D from the start.

I don't know. I'm writing a book. Pedantry, I guess. :-)

> Since the file is large and he only wants one column out of 6, I guess
> the above would be better than the one-liner
>
> data=reform((read_csv('file.dat')).(5),5000,5000)
>
> Which would use more memory, and I expect would be slower.

I would expect it to be about as slow as the loop, but
I've never tried it.

> Anyway, if the same file is going to be read several times, it may be
> useful to convert it to some binary format, like Ken suggested (might
> even be a savefile).

Yeah, people who put big data sets in columns should
be shot, but sometimes you just have to play the hand
you are dealt. :-)

Cheers,

David

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Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")