
Subject: Re: Read large ascii file quickly
Posted by [penteado](#) on Thu, 06 Jan 2011 23:29:06 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Jan 6, 9:06 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
> Paul Magdon writes:
>> I print the counter just to make sure something is working.
>
>> Here are a couple of lines of the ascii:
>
>> 0.050249,0.058117,0.029660,0.097091,0.358593,1
>> 0.051483,0.061990,0.030229,0.095512,0.371539,1
>> 0.055431,0.062700,0.031565,0.090342,0.382935,1
>
> Well, then I would do it like this:
>
> OpenR, lun, 'file.dat', /Get_Lun
> data = Intarr(5000*5000)
> ReadF, lun, data, Format='(44x,10)'
> Free_Lun, lun
> data = Reform(data, 5000, 5000)

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.

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.

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).
