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Subject: Re: Faster way to search/split a string?

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Thu, 24 Nov 2011 09:15:52 GMT

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Some thoughts (though I am not certain I understand the situation):

1. If you don't need regular expressions then I believe that using STRPOS() is quicker than using STREGEX().
2. If the ID is always in the first 20 characters of ALL\_ROWS then I would create a new vector `row_id = strmid(all_rows,0,20)` and search on that.
3. If the ID is always exactly 20 characters, you could use a program like <http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/pro/misc/match.pro> to then find the matching indices in `row_id` and `id`. This is similar to David's suggestion of sorting and using VALUE\_LOCATE.
4. You want to make only a single call to STRSPLIT() for all 10,000 rows. Since IDL V8.0, STRSPLIT returns a list data type when supplied with an array (since in principle each string element could have a different number of "columns"). If you have an earlier version of IDL -- or if this capability is not available in GDL, then I would use the vector capability of STRMID ( [http://www.idlcoyote.com/code\\_tips/strmidvec.html](http://www.idlcoyote.com/code_tips/strmidvec.html) )

--Wayne

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