
Subject: How to speed up large FOR loops?

Posted by [Saurav Dhital](#) on Tue, 10 Apr 2012 15:48:19 GMT

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Hi,

By necessity, I have to use a long FOR loop ($N > \sim 300,000$). I have made the operations inside the loop efficient enough that the first 40,000 iterations are relatively fast (~ 30 mins). Then it slows down to a crawl, with the entire process taking > 24 hours. I would appreciate any advice how to speed this up.

The operation inside the loop involves matching between two (large) FITS files and assigning the matches to another (previously created) FITS structure. There are no new variable created per iteration, so there should be no memory being used (each loop writes over the variables anyways). I even create small substructures (e.g., `> sub_mystruct = mystruct[0:10]`) so that I don't have to index the large structures.

Any tip or advice would be much appreciated,
~Saurav
