
Subject: Re: reading and writing very slow
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Fri, 11 Feb 2011 14:09:32 GMT
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Am 11.02.2011 14:12, schrieb geoff:

> Hi
>
> I have some 1-2 GB text files (lots of them!), each containing weather
> data for many thousands of stations for 1 year (per file). I need to
> get the data out of the year files and into files which have all the
> data for 1 weather station. It's easy but slow.
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> I am reading each year file line by line and appending that line to
> the filename of the station (which is one of the fields on the line).
> (openw.../append, close). Does opening and closing files so many
> times have such an overhead? Is there a quicker way?

no

but reading line by line has.

Reimar

>
> thanks
>
>
>

Subject: Re: reading and writing very slow
Posted by [oxfordenergyservices](#) on Fri, 11 Feb 2011 15:16:41 GMT
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On Feb 11, 2:09 pm, Reimar Bauer <R.Ba...@fz-juelich.de> wrote:

> Am 11.02.2011 14:12, schrieb geoff:
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only way i know how. variable length ascii unfortunately :(

Subject: Re: reading and writing very slow
Posted by [ben.bighair](#) on Fri, 11 Feb 2011 15:27:53 GMT
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On 2/11/11 10:16 AM, geoff wrote:

> On Feb 11, 2:09 pm, Reimar Bauer<R.Ba...@fz-juelich.de> wrote:
>> Am 11.02.2011 14:12, schrieb geoff:
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Hi,

I can't tell from your description if exactly how you are managing the output process so this might not be all that helpful. If I had to do this in IDL, I would use something like Mike Galloy's resizeable array list. See...

<http://michaelgalloy.com/2006/04/24/collection-package-mgarraylist.html>

I might use that array list to aggregate all of the data. When the aggregation is complete I would then dump it all to file at once.

For each input file you can read in all the data at a swipe and then parse as needed within IDL. That would might be a lot faster than trying to read in formatted lines one-at-a-time.

Cheers,
Ben

Subject: Re: reading and writing very slow
Posted by [oxfordenergyservices](#) on Fri, 11 Feb 2011 17:06:39 GMT
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On Feb 11, 3:27 pm, Ben Tupper <ben.bigh...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On 2/11/11 10:16 AM, geoff wrote:

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>> On Feb 11, 2:09 pm, Reimar Bauer<R.Ba...@fz-juelich.de> wrote:

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> For each input file you can read in all the data at a swipe and then
> parse as needed within IDL. That would might be a lot faster than
> trying to read in formatted lines one-at-a-time.

Thanks for this I'll take a look. Turns out it was my fault.
Processing on one linux machine, filesystem on another.

Subject: Re: reading and writing very slow
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Mon, 14 Feb 2011 16:29:05 GMT
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Am 11.02.2011 16:16, schrieb geoff:
> On Feb 11, 2:09 pm, Reimar Bauer <[R.Ba...@fz-juelich.de](mailto:R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de)> wrote:
>> Am 11.02.2011 14:12, schrieb geoff:
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If you know the data structure you can design an idl structure and read
directly into that.

for example if that is a piece of your data

a='21.4 4544 5656.234'

then define a structure of

```
s= {temp:0.0, count:0L, height:0.0}
```

and use reads

```
reads, a, s
```

```
IDL> help,s,/str
```

```
** Structure <13a32a8>, 3 tags, length=12, data length=12, refs=2:
```

| | | |
|--------|-------|---------|
| TEMP | FLOAT | 21.4000 |
| COUNT | LONG | 4544 |
| HEIGHT | FLOAT | 5656.23 |

for multiple lines use an array of the structure, e.g.

```
a = ['21.4 4544 5656.234', '22.3 4567 5555.1']
```

```
s = replicate({temp:0.0, count:0L, height:0.0}, 2)
```

```
IDL> help,s[0],/str
```

```
** Structure <13a3798>, 3 tags, length=12, data length=12, refs=2:
```

| | | |
|--------|-------|---------|
| TEMP | FLOAT | 21.4000 |
| COUNT | LONG | 4544 |
| HEIGHT | FLOAT | 5656.23 |

```
IDL> help,s[1],/str
```

```
** Structure <13a3798>, 3 tags, length=12, data length=12, refs=2:
```

| | | |
|--------|-------|---------|
| TEMP | FLOAT | 22.3000 |
| COUNT | LONG | 4567 |
| HEIGHT | FLOAT | 5555.10 |

You see it does not matter if ascii or binary ;)

cheers

Reimar
