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# Really slow Movie import

Thu, 12/14/2017 - 17:08

#1



Axel

Really slow Movie import

Hi,

I'm getting extremely slow Movie imports (~1-2 hours for 1500 micrographs).

Is there a way to make this go faster? Why is this step so slow? The CPU usage is very low during this step.

Axel





alexis

tiff?

Hi Axel,

The reason this step is slow is that cisTEM checks every single file to find out its dimensions and check a few basic things.

Are you importing TIFF files? In the case of TIFF files, this takes a long time, because it has to check every slice to check that they are all the same dimensions (the TIFF format allows for arbitrary properties for every image in the file), which means a lot of disk reads. The CPU usage is very low because it's just waiting for the disk.

With MRC files, there is less checking required, since it is sufficient to just read the header of the file to find out what we need. If you find that import is slow with MRC movies, you're probably just seeing your disk's limitations.

Perhaps in a future version of cisTEM we can just assume that all images in a TIFF file are the same, but even then I believe that we would need to traverse the file to find out how many images are present - this is something we developers should probably revisit.

In the meantime, the only thing you can do is work on a faster disk and/or make sure you only import things once.

Hope this helps, if only to understand the problem.

Cheers  
Alexis







timgrant

If your disk is optimized for

If your disk is optimized for large reads, it is a killer for this. Our network disk has similar speeds to this, however if reading the same movies from local SSD it takes maybe 50 seconds.

Tim

Thu, 12/14/2017 - 23:58 (Reply to #3)



Axel

tiiiiiiFFFFFFF!

Yep, they're tiff files.

Thanks for letting me know.

Axel



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