
Subject: Re: Memory deallocate problem

Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Fri, 27 Mar 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Ying Jin wrote:

- > Does anyone know the mechanism of memory deallocation of IDL ?
- > My problem is :
- > When I open several big arrays, I literally exhaust all the available
- > memory, but I need more. And I don't care to deallocate the memory
- > for the previous arrays.
- > I have digged through the help and manual of the IDL version 4.0.3.
- > It turns out that IDL seems to not want user to tackle the issue by
- > themselves.

IDL isn't going to change in a hurry, so you've got to adapt. Here's some strategies:

(1) Don't use huge arrays. Spend a few minutes thinking about the problem, and see if you can come up with an algorithm that handles the problem in more reasonable chunks.

(2) Whenever you're done processing a large array, make sure you use `TEMPORARY()` to undefine it, e.g. `TVSCL`, `TEMPORARY(IMAGE)`. This makes a big difference if you use it consistently. David Fanning's `UNDEFINE` program (<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/undefine.pro>) is very useful in this respect.

(3) If you're using a PC or Mac, buy more memory. On a PC 32MB can be had for \$75 or less, so why not stick and extra 64MB in that old PC.

Cheers,
Liam.
