Subject: memory allocation for structure arrays
Posted by Ian Sprod on Wed, 29 Apr 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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Hi,

I am trying to read a pretty large data file (40Mb) into IDL. The file is 925,801 records, each 44 bytes long. I can describe the 44 bytes as a data structure and then replicate this to make a structure array (albeit a very large one). Then, in theory, reading in the data is a breeze.

The problem is that IDL runs out of memory trying to read in the file. It seems that each line of the structure array is somehow requiring MORE than 44 bytes of memory. Poking around with top and free shows that it seems to be using ~312 bytes for each line instead. At this rate I can only read in the first ~225,000 lines of the file.

Does anyone know exactly how IDL allocates memory for structures?

Should I be using an associative array to do this?

I am running IDL 5.0.2 on a Linux box with 128Mb of physical RAM and twice that of swap space.

Thanks for any help or advice,

Ian

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