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Subject: Re: Using ASSOC function  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 02 Jul 1998 07:00:00 GMT  
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Bernard Puc (puc@gsfc.nasa.gov) writes:

> Using ASSOC, I can access an image array stored in a datafile. Is it  
> possible to instead select a subimage of that array? I'm looking to  
> optimize the file access speed by not having to read the entire file or  
> array into a variable. Thanks in advance.

If you are asking if you can do this:

```
file = FilePath(SubDir=['examples', 'data'], 'cereb.dat')
OpenR, lun, file, /Get_Lun
images = Assoc(lun, BytArr(512, 512))
thisPartImage = (images(0))[0:255,256:512]
Help, thisPartImage
TV, thisPartImage
```

Then the answer, amazingly enough, is yes.

I can't quite believe this, because I would have thought it mattered how the data was laid out in the file (i.e, in row order) as to whether you get what you think you are going to get, but apparently it doesn't. I've tried all kinds of subscripts. They all work.

Don't you just LOVE IDL! :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. As to whether this is faster or not, I can't tell. This image is read so fast on my 400 MHz machine I can't separate the time meaningfully from zero.

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