
Subject: Re: Undocumented array indexing feature?
Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Tue, 26 Jan 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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R.Bauer wrote:

>> Bill B. wrote:
> [...]
>> Oh, I knew that one, Alex. Anyone know which method offers faster execution -
>>
>> a = 0 & b = 0 * OR * a = (b = 0)
>>
>> this is important when applying the same principle to large arrays. At least
>> to those of us with slower PCs :(
>
> Initializing of big arrays should be done by a=make_array(200,100000,/nozero)
> This is the fastest method
>
> R.Bauer

but then you have them uninitialized! A fair comparison is

a = make_array(dim1,dim2,type)

Here is some timing info (IDL 5.1 on SGI Origin 2000):

[only one pass each, but these numbers don't change much]

A1 = FLTARR(1000,1000) & A2 = FLTARR(1000,1000)
0.031656981 + 0.032227993 = 0.063884974 seconds

B2 = (B1 = FLTARR(1000,1000))
0.085137010 seconds

C1 = MAKE_ARRAY(1000,1000,/FLOAT) & C2 = ...
0.037186027 + 0.040596962 = 0.077782989 seconds

D1 = MAKE_ARRAY(1000,1000,/FLOAT,/NOZERO) & C2 = ...
0.00017607212 + 0.00011897087 = 0.00029504299 seconds

Regards,
Martin.

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