Subject: Re: problems plotting LARGE amounts of 2D data?
Posted by mcheng on Tue, 22 Feb 1994 22:51:12 GMT
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In article <thompson.761937768@serts.gsfc.nasa.gov> thompson@serts.gsfc.nasa.gov (William Thompson) writes:

> If a program such as IDL (or any of the others you mention) is putting things
> into virtual memory, it can only be because you don't have enough real memory
> available to you. The only thing you can do is buy more memory, or if your
> operating system supports memory usage quotas (such as VMS) then you need to
> increase your quotas.

I argue that buying more memory is not always the best solution for the following reasons:
1) Some of us are poor. (arguably a weak reason)
2) Some data are always larger than the largest amount of memory reasonable amounts of money can buy.
3) Even a few medium sized data can overload real memory quickly. For example, working with five 25-meg data sets already requires 125 megs of memory.

There has always been a mistmatch between virtual memory policy and the need to handle large amounts of data. This mismatch has been demonstrated time and again in database systems. I feel that this issue will come up again with respect to scientific data sets.

So we go back to my original question: is there any software package for plotting large amounts of 2D data that does better than loading everything into virtual memory?

Mike