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Subject: Re: about memory

Posted by [Jaco van Gorkom](#) on Mon, 21 May 2001 21:33:00 GMT

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Hong Gang wrote:

- > The following is the error given by my program.
- > % Unable to allocate memory: to make array.
- > Cannot allocate memory
- >
- > I have some large arrays as Tb(632\*664, 880). I do not know what is the
- > matter with the program. Can anyone give me some idea?

Usually this means that IDL has run out of memory. An array of dimensions 419648 (632\*664) by 880 would have 369290240 elements. If it is of type FLOAT, then each element takes up 4 bytes, coming to a grand total of almost 1.4 Gigabyte. Do you have that much memory?

It might be possible to increase the amount of virtual memory (= swap space on disk) available, but swapping memory from disk invariably slows down programs quite a lot. A much better approach would be to rewrite your program so that it needs less memory, e.g. by processing the data in smaller blocks.

hope this helps,  
Jaco

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