Subject: resizing an array of structures (uugh)
Posted by Randall Skelton on Mon, 04 Jun 2001 11:57:48 GMT
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Hi all,

I have an ascii file containing a few thousand lines with each individual dataset comprising 10 lines of floats, ints, strings, etc. It seems logical to read this in as an array of structures as each dataset contains the same information, just different numbers.

My problem is that I don't know what the dimension of the array should be before I start. Initially I just defined a large array and counted the number of datasets for subsequent processing. However, as time progresses and this code gets more use, I have to say that I really hate all the excess array elements... I figured there would be an easy way to resize the array of structures, but the best I can come up with is a double for loop that is rather slow.

```
; loop over the number of array elements
for i, n_elements(array) do begin
   ; loop over the number of tags
   for j, n_tags(structure) do begin
     resized_array[i].(j) = array[i].(j)
   endfor
endfor
```

Is there a *faster* or more elegant way to do this? Does IDL have a *fast* resize command that can handle any type of array to simply adjust the number of elements in the array without rebinning, or otherwise changing the numbers?

Cheers,
Randall