
Subject: Re: resizing an array of structures (uugh)
Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 04 Jun 2001 22:10:43 GMT
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Randall Skelton (rhskelto@atm.ox.ac.uk) writes:

> I have *finally* convinced the department to invest in David's book. It
> has only been in the library for 6 hours and it is already out and
> reserved for next week :(

Ah, I knew I should have put two in that box. :-)

> This is exactly what I was looking for! Seems the EXTRAC function
> would have worked as well.

EXTRAC!! Boy that takes me back. And looking at the on-line
help I see it was first written for PDP-11 computers.
There can't be even half a dozen people left at NASA
who remember those days. (Well, in addition to Wayne Landsman
and Joe Gurman, I mean.)

> Using the IDL online help I found 'resize', 'array', 'reform', 'rebin',
> 'make_array', etc, but I couldn't find any help on doing this rather
> simple task. Any thoughts on what I should have searched for?

Indexing, believe me, is more art than science. Even
the paltry excuse for an index in my book took me well
over a week of work. Technical writers for computer
software companies often have the interest in developing
good indexes, but they are rarely given enough time to
do it properly, since it is usually the documentation
printing schedule that is holding up the software release.

In any case, this is one of those topics that is hard to
categorize, even if you have a lot of experience in IDL.
But if you read the on-line help for EXTRAC, however, you
were close. Prominently featured there is "Subscript
Ranges", which is pretty much what you were looking for.

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155
