
Subject: Re: Huge datasets under Win2000
Posted by [david\[2\]](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2001 18:51:38 GMT
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Joe Means writes:

```
> have to read in over 13,000,000 observations [eventually over  
> 33,000,000] with the structure  
> dataShort = {dataShort, returnNum:0L, x:0D,y:0D,z:0D}  
>  
> At first, either when reading in or processing, I ran out of memory with  
> a message about IDL not being able to allocate memory to make the  
> array. So I read this into an Assoc variable which works fine. Now ,  
> however, when I try to access parts of this data [dataS is the  
> Associated structure array]:  
> datSvX = (dataS.y-yl)/cellsize  
> I get the error:  
> % File expression not allowed in this context: DATAS.
```

Joe, sorry. I was distracted this morning what with playing tennis and watching that Henman/Federer match at Wimbledon. In fact, I don't know why in the world I was even reading the IDL newsgroup! :-(

But I don't think this error has anything at all to do with reading large data sizes. I think it has to do with the way you are accessing the associated variable. (Although I admit I've never seen the error message before.)

If I understand your message correctly, DATAS is the associated variable. Is this right?

```
dummy = {dataShort, returnNum:0L, x:0D,y:0D,z:0D}  
OpenU, lun, 'mydatafile.dat', /Get_Lun  
datas = Assoc(lun, {dataShort})
```

It is really incorrect to think of this as an array of structures, which I think is what you may be doing. In other words, this syntax doesn't work with associated variables:

```
b = datas(4:6)
```

With associated variables, you are going to have to pull each structure out to work with it:

```
struct1 = datas(5)
```

```
struct1.x = 5.5  
datas(5) = struct1
```

I can't really tell what you are doing with this syntax:

```
datSvX = (dataS.y-yl)/cellsize
```

But, I'm pretty sure this is the source of your error.

Cheers,

David

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