
Subject: Memory question by a newbie

Posted by [patt](#) on Fri, 02 Aug 2002 20:54:11 GMT

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I am a newbie to IDL and am hoping for some advice on memory issues. My program reads 10 files and places the information (floating point) into 10 different 2D arrays. The arrays are about 5000 columns by 6000 rows. Each array is subject to simple mathematical manipulation that results in a new 2D array. So, I read 10 files and create 10 2D arrays. These 10 arrays are intermediate arrays that are used to create a final 2D array. Well, you can probably figure out that I ran out of memory. I read up on memory problems with IDL and it seems like this is the way life is in IDL. The way I solved the memory problem was to break up the files into sections and work with those sections, then read the file again only moving the file pointer to the end of previous section. I used the update parameter of the read function to create the final array, so each section is added to the final array file. I am wondering if there is a better work around? I found the IDL_MAKETEMPARRAY function but I don't understand what it does and am not sure if that is the answer. Any other ideas? Pat
