
Subject: Re: how to get an array of variable length arrays

Posted by [dave](#) on Mon, 28 Nov 1994 23:22:15 GMT

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>>>> > "James" == James Tappin <slt@xun8.sr.bham.ac.uk> writes:

In article <[3bc8np\\$qq64@sun4.bham.ac.uk](mailto:3bc8np$qq64@sun4.bham.ac.uk)> slt@xun8.sr.bham.ac.uk (James Tappin) writes:

James> greec@essex.ac.uk wrote: : Does anyone know how you can

James> create an array of variable length : arrays?.

James> : e.g in C you could do it like this:

James> : float a[10],b[5],c[14]; : float *arrays[3];

James> : arrays[0]=a; arrays[1]=b; arrays[2]=c;

James> : Thanks in advance for any help you can give.

James> : Chris

James> : greec@essex.ac.uk

James> The only thing I can think of would be to use a structure:

James> e.g. for you example

James> a = fltarr(10) b = fltarr(5) c = fltarr(14) arrays = {f1:a,

James> f2:b, f3:c}

James> You can then access the fields numerically by using the

James> form: val = arrays.(n)(m)

James> But you can't then replace the f3 field with a 6 element

James> array, you would have to make a new structure.

The structure approach is the simplest. You could get more flexibility with handles:

a = fltarr(10)& b=fltarr(5) &c=fltarr(14)

arrays=lonarr(3)

array(0)=handle_create(/value=a)

array(1)=handle_create(/value=b)

array(2)=handle_create(/value=c)

Of course, the handle mechanism is not as simple or elegant as the C

pointer mechanism, and you need to use `handle_value` to access the elements.:

```
; get j=array(x,*):
```

```
handle_value,array(x), j
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```
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University of Texas Medical School          Houston, Texas
```
