Subject: How to expand large arrays?
Posted by art.croucher on Tue, 18 Apr 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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I am trying to read in a large but unknown amount of data, and am getting (IDL 3.6.1 VMS and Windows) 'unable to allocate core' crashes long before I should be out of memory. Is there something that causes IDL to allocate something like 5x the size of the array being used? I understand that a temporary array is created, but I thought this would limit me to an array 1/2 the size of the available memory.

I create a large array and expand it by either concatenation or by creation of a new array and pasting. In both instances, I crash when using 1/5 of my memory quota and less than half the physical memory available (according to IDL help,/memory. The respective operating systems say I'm at the limit of both physical and virtual). Yes, I created enough huge images to use my expected quota - got just the numbers I expected.

Can anybody tell me what is going on, and how can I create an array that is large but nowhere near the quota?

The two methods I tried were:

```
temp=(~10000,2)
data=[temporary(data),temp]
```

and

```
temp=fltarr(npts+10000,2)
temp(0,0)=data
data=temp
temp=0
```

Both crashed when the IDL-reported memory usage was 9MB of my 50 MB VMS quota (VMS said I was using all 50MB).

Thanks,

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