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Subject: Memory de-allocation and "restore"

Posted by [rutledge](#) on Wed, 10 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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I apologize to those who are boring of this subject, but I have not received any answers at all, and I cannot believe that the difficulty I am having MUST exist -- there must be SOME way around it.

I save a variable "specdata" (a common variable) using a "save" command. "specdata" contains, at different times, different information, but all of the same structure, to various files.

I ran the following test:

```
for i=0L, n_ffiles-1 do begin ; CYCLE THROUGH THE FILES
  specdata = 0
  restore, filename=ffiles(i), /verbose
endfor
```

which cycles through files and restores to the variable "specdata". On the first iteration, the loop takes about 10 seconds, and no time is spent at the "specdata=0" line. On the second iteration, approximately 2minutes are required by the "specdata=0" line, and >10 minutes are required on that "restore". The second "restore" is half the memory size of the first "restore", so it is not a problem of the memory requirements.

Is this REALLY the way IDL is? Is there REALLY no way to improve this (either for me to improve this, or RSI to improve this). If this cannot be improved, I cannot use IDL in the future, because it is simply not fast enough on silly 'ol I/O.

Bob

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