Subject: Re: Dynamically resizing arrays
Posted by Michael Wallace on Mon, 07 Feb 2005 17:01:11 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Rick Towler wrote:
> Adding data row by row like this can be a little inefficient as you are
> forcing IDL to allocate RAM for every iteration. I have found it to be
> a bit quicker to grow the array in chunks appropriate for your application.

[snip]

```
>    ;  grow array if needed - adding 100 rows at a time
>    if (nrows eq totrows - 1) then begin
>       array_init = [[array_init],[INTARR(100,100)]]
>       totrows = totrows + 100
>     endif
```

One other common solution is to multiply your current number of rows by 2 rather than adding a constant. If your array grows past the initial mark you've set, this exponential algorithm will require fewer array resize operations than the linear algorithm, and hence improve efficiency. The one caveat is that if your array grows really large, doubling the array might use up way too much memory. There are benefits from both approaches -- it just depends on the nature of your data and how large you think it may grow.

-Mike