
Subject: Re: File sizes and the SAVE command
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Wed, 22 Mar 2006 13:26:13 GMT
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Klaus Scipal wrote:

- > The problem is not related to the calculation of the filesize, but the
- > actual amount of memory required
- >
- > Take two arrays
- > a=intarr(100000)
- > b=fltarr(100000)
- >
- > and save them using the save comandd
- > the file for array a takes 402096 bytes diskspace
- > the file for array b takes 402096 bytes diskspace
- >
- > save them using openw & writeu
- > the file for array a takes 200000 bytes diskspace
- > the file for array b takes 400000 bytes diskspace
- >
- > So the save command seems to waste a lot of diskspace, but why? Does the IDL
- > save command convert an integer automatically into a longinteger?
- >
- > Klaus
- >

why not using /compress ?

An idl sav file is not only a binary copy of your value. It does use a XDR exchange data format to create files which are platform independent. Each value has always it's XDR description included.

In general one of the scientific data formats e.g. netCDF are much better to store your data in a common structure which is exchangeable to a lot of platforms too

cheers

Reimar

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a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich
http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html