Subject: File sizes and the SAVE command
Posted by Carsten Pathe on Wed, 22 Mar 2006 09:39:50 GMT
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Hi there,

I am wondering about the IDL save command and the disk space of the created save files.
Just an simple example:

```
a=intarr(100000)
tmp = size(a)
print, string(format='(f10.3)',(tmp(1)*tmp(2))/(2.^10.))+' kbyte'
;195.313 kbyte
save, a, filename='d:\temp\test\b.dat'

b=fltarr(100000)
tmp = size(b)
print, string(format='(f10.3)',(tmp(1)*tmp(2))/(2.^10.))+' kbyte'
;390.625 kbyte
save, a, filename='d:\temp\test\a.dat'

c=dblarr(100000)
tmp = size(c)
print, string(format='(f10.3)',(tmp(1)*tmp(2))/(2.^10.))+' kbyte'
;488.281 kbyte
save, c, filename='d:\temp\test\c.dat'
```

When you look at the created files and their sizes, you will see the following:
a.dat 393 kb
b.dat 393 kb
c.dat 784 kb

If you compare the file sizes to the sizes, the arrays were allocating in the memory before they were save to disk, you see differences which will cost you a lot of disk space when saving arrays of several hundred megabytes.
Does anybody know, why the save command is producing files larger than they should be?

PS: I know, that I can also use:

```
openw, 10, 'd:\temp\test\a.dat'
writeu, 10, a
close, 10
```

But when I want to restore the data, I have to know the structure of the data to restore - which is not always the case.

Thanks a lot help