Subject: Memory benefit from subroutines
Posted by MarioIncandenza on Fri, 10 Aug 2007 17:24:14 GMT
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Hi IDL Wizards,

This has come up a few times, and I realized I don't know the answer:

In the process of eliminating loops, I write a lot of routines that
hover at the raw edge of what can be done in 32-bit IDL, in terms of
memory usage. When a complicated routine runs out of memory, I usually
do a
IDL> help
to determine if there's any cleanup I failed to do that could
alleviate the crunch. Sometimes, though, the big memory hogs are
outside the current loop. Here's pseudocode for that:

outputarray=fltarr(2,10,2e6); 2e6 data from 200 files
for ifile=0,199 do begin
<crazy memory intensive operation>
outputarray[i,ii,*]=result_1file
endfor

Now, if I put <crazy memory intensive operation> into a FUNCTION,
would I gain any headroom on memory, because of descoping OUTPUTARRAY?

Thanks for your sagacity,

--Edward H.