szoonem@astro.sunysb.edu (Saeid Zoonematkermani) writes:

> Hi;

> This is a question that concerns astronomers once in a while. I have
> wondered what the limit is to the size of the arrays that IDL can create.
> Some times IDL fails to read a FITS image complaining:

> % Unable to allocate memory: to make array.
>   not enough core

> This is not so uncommon if one has to deal with even moderate size cubes.
> I have tried to use .SIZE to increase the default value for data area but
> it doesn't seem to work. So the question is if there is a way to open a
> very large image by IDL. IRAF seems to have no problem with this. Does
> this problem arise from lack of RAM on the computer?

I don't do astronomy and don't know about the FITS format, but the only
memory limitation for IDL is the total amount of RAM (physical and virtual)
on your system. Of course, if that memory space becomes fragmented, it will
seem like you have a lot less.

Kevin

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