
Subject: Re: Releasing memory in IDL

Posted by [Jaime](#) on Wed, 23 Jan 2008 21:28:52 GMT

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I dug into the code and found that these variables are defined in a COMMON block. Why are they still using memory after the program finished? can they be destroyed altogether (e.g. common_block=0)?

Best,
Jaime

> hum...
> for regular variables (i.e. not pointers), they are released from memory
> when you exit the pro or function... so setting "a=0" should change the
> memory used IN the function, but should have no effect when the program
> returns to a lower / main level. Indeed, this is correct provided that
> a) the variable is not part of the argument of the function, or b) the
> variable is not part of a common block.
>
> To avoid memory leak... well... pointers need to be well defined and
> cleaned up!
>
> a = ptr_new(indgen(100000000000))
> a = 0 ==> you just lost track of the indgen(100000000000) array!!! ...
> but it is still in memory!
>
> Jean
