
Subject: Re: assoc() allocates memory... why?
Posted by [Jackel](#) on Sat, 17 Feb 1996 08:00:00 GMT
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In article <4g3cm9\$P4i@peabody.colorado.edu> tarrall@plutus.Colorado.EDU (Robert Tarrall) writes:

> This is re. vanilla IDL 4.0.1, not PV-Wave, but I'm posting here as
> the comp.lang.idl newsgroup looks dead, at least at our site.

As I understand it, comp.lang.idl was already taken by the interface description language people.

> The IDL documentation claims quite clearly that assoc() does not
> hold the data from the associated file in memory. However, it still
> seems to allocate the memory; under both IRIX and SunOS when I
> do something like:
> openr,1,"bigfile"
> x = assoc(1,fltarr(1000,301,180))
> all the memory necessary to hold a 1000x301x180 array of floats
> (i.e. 215 MB) is allocated by IDL. This seems very inefficient
> at best and perhaps even just plain dumb...

You telling IDL that the file has N elements in it, each of which are 1000x301x180 floats, so it naturally creates a buffer this large. If you have a file with 1000 300x180 floats, then try

```
x= ASSOC(1,FLTARR(301,180))
```

which allows you to access the 200th element with

```
x1= x(200)
```
