
Subject: Solve memory problems

Posted by [corinnefrey](#) on Tue, 13 Jan 2009 13:28:12 GMT

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Hi everybody,

Again I am confronted with memory problems in IDL. I am working with satellite images and their derivatives and therefore I am often confronted with huge datasets.

Well, running a routine once, some common tricks may help to enhance the available memory:

- Use the temporary-function,
- Put the variables, I don't need anymore, to zero,
- Working as much as possible with interger or byte arrays,
- etc.

However, specially when running an already optimized routine several times (e.g. for several scenes), available memory will disappear over short or long. I guess, this has to do with the growing fragmentation of the memory.

A solution could be to use the same variables for different grids in a subroutine. However, I prefer to name the variables according to their physical (or whatever) meaning. Otherwise, after some time, I don't have any chance to understand my programmes anymore.

In my dreams, delvar is available also in routines. However, it's not, is it?

So, after this long introduction: What strategies are you using, to have more memory available, or to prevent the fragmentation of the memory?

Thanks for any comments.

Regards,
Corinne
