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Subject: Segfault when smoothing image  
Posted by [thoeger](#) on Sun, 14 Feb 2010 10:54:50 GMT  
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Hello newsgfroup;

I hope this question isn't too basic.

As part of my master thesis in astronomy, I have to make an image consisting of 2200x2200 pixels having the value zero except certain pixels, representing each the center of an astronomical objects, having the value one. The goal is to get an idea of the number density of objects in the field, so I try to do a gaussian smoothing using the `filter_image` function, but end up with a segfault and IDL quitting due to floating underflow. (To be precise, this is GDL on my laptop. True IDL on the university computers just stalls indefinitely). So it seems I'm doing something wrong here. Does anyone have an idea how to implement the smoothing, if not by `filter_image`?

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