
Subject: Re: Merits of different ways of 'extending' arrays
Posted by [suicidaleggroll](#) on Mon, 09 Sep 2013 22:41:10 GMT
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Another option is to set up a pointer array nfiles long before the loop, inside the loop load the file and find the valid points, then put that array into that file's pointer, while incrementing a counter to keep track of the total number of points. When you're done, you have all of your data saved in pointers (one per file), and a count of the total number of valid points. Then you allocate your array, loop back through the elements of the pointer array, and fill the array as necessary. Something like:

```
f = file_search(path, count=nfiles)
ptrs = ptrarr(nfiles)
num = 0
for i=0l,nfiles-1 do begin
    ;; load contents of file
    is_valid = where(stuff, n_valid)
    if n_valid gt 0 then begin
        num += n_valid
        ptrs[i] = ptr_new(f.var_1[is_valid])
    endif
endfor

data = fltarr(num)
idx = 0l
for i=0l,nfiles-1 do begin
    if ptr_valid(ptrs[i]) then begin
        num = n_elements(*ptrs[i])
        data[idx:idx+num-1] = *ptrs[i]
        ptr_free, ptrs[i]
    endif
endfor
```