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Subject: File sizes and the SAVE command

Posted by [Carsten Pathe](#) on Wed, 22 Mar 2006 09:39:50 GMT

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Hi there,

I am wondering about the IDL save command and the disk space of the created save files.

Just an simple example:

```
a=intarr(100000)
tmp = size(a)
print, string(format='(f10.3)',(tmp(1)*tmp(2))/(2.^10.))+ ' kbyte'
;195.313 kbyte
save, a, filename='d:\temp\test\b.dat'
```

```
b=fltarr(100000)
tmp = size(b)
print, string(format='(f10.3)',(tmp(1)*tmp(2))/(2.^10.))+ ' kbyte'
;390.625 kbyte
save, a, filename='d:\temp\test\la.dat'
```

```
c=dblarr(100000)
tmp = size(c)
print, string(format='(f10.3)',(tmp(1)*tmp(2))/(2.^10.))+ ' kbyte'
;488.281 kbyte
save, c, filename='d:\temp\test\lc.dat'
```

When you look at the created files and their sizes, you will see the following:

```
a.dat 393 kb
b.dat 393 kb
c.dat 784 kb
```

If you compare the file sizes to the sizes, the arrays were allocating in the memory before they were save to disk, you see differences which will cost you a lot of disk space when saving arrays of several hundred megabytes.

Does anybody know, why the save command is producing files larger than they should be?

PS: I know, that I can also use:

```
openw, 10, 'd:\temp\test\la.dat'
writeu, 10, a
close, 10
```

But when I want to restore the data, I have to know the structure of the data to restore - which is not always the case.

Thanks a lot help

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