

---

Subject: Memory benefit from subroutines

Posted by [MarioIncandenza](#) on Fri, 10 Aug 2007 17:24:14 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Hi IDL Wizards,

This has come up a few times, and I realized I don't know the answer:

In the process of eliminating loops, I write a lot of routines that hover at the raw edge of what can be done in 32-bit IDL, in terms of memory usage. When a complicated routine runs out of memory, I usually do a

IDL> help

to determine if there's any cleanup I failed to do that could alleviate the crunch. Sometimes, though, the big memory hogs are outside the current loop. Here's pseudocode for that:

```
outputarray=fltarr(2,10,2e6); 2e6 data from 200 files
for ifile=0,199 do begin
<crazy memory intensive operation>
outputarray[i,ii,*]=result_1file
endfor
```

Now, if I put <crazy memory intensive operation> into a FUNCTION, would I gain any headroom on memory, because of descoping OUTPUTARRAY?

Thanks for your sagacity,

--Edward H.

---