
Subject: Re: Collection of different sized arrays

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 17 Jan 2010 13:10:54 GMT

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Robin Wilson writes:

- > I have a suspicion that this question may have been asked before, but I
- > can't seem to find the answer in the archives of this group. Possibly I'm
- > not searching using the right keywords...
- >
- > Basically, I need to keep a collection of different sized arrays. I am
- > writing an image segmentation routine, which will take an image and
- > split it into segments. I need to keep track of which pixels in the
- > image are in each segment. My thought is that I'll have an array for
- > each segment which will contain the indices of the pixels within that
- > segment. However, I can't work out how to store this collection of
- > arrays in IDL, as each array will be a different length, and I won't
- > know the number of segments or the lengths of the arrays at
- > compile-time. Also, to add to the fun, the pixels in each segment are
- > likely to change during the segmentation process...
- >
- > I have a suspicion the answer may involve pointers, or objects
- > (possibly?) or something like that, but I'm not really sure.

Yes, use a pointer array. Each pointer in the array can point to whatever you would like it to point to. You can change whatever it points to whenever you like.

Here is a pointer tutorial, if you are unfamiliar with them:

http://www.dfanning.com/misc_tips/pointers.html

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Collection of different sized arrays

Posted by [Mort Canty](#) on Sun, 17 Jan 2010 16:57:44 GMT

Am 17.01.2010 13:37, schrieb Robin Wilson:

> Hi,
>
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> likely to change during the segmentation process...
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> I have a suspicion the answer may involve pointers, or objects
> (possibly?) or something like that, but I'm not really sure.
>
> Any ideas would be much appreciated,
>
> Thanks,
>
> Robin Wilson
> University of Southampton, UK

Alternatively, you can maintain a label array (of integer) with the same spatial dimension as your image and simply update the labels as your segmentation algorithm proceeds.

-Mort
