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Subject: Re: Question about storing arrays in pointer array.  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 08 Mar 2012 22:35:53 GMT  
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Ian writes:

```
>
> Hello All,
> I have a question regarding the storage of arrays within arrays. I am
> attempting to read in 14 data files with 5 vectors of 512 elements. I
> have attempted two methods:
>
>
> ;test attempting to read in variety of data and overplot it in a stack
> ;without y-axis and single x-axis
>
> boo=DBLARR(14, 512)
> ;boo=PTRARR(14)
> for x = 0,13,1 do begin
>   rdcol, 'iz_diff_rot'+STRCOMPRESS(x,/REMOVE_ALL)
>   +'.dat',p1,p2,p3,p4,p5
>   print, i, " The dat file is: ", 'iz_diff_rot'+STRCOMPRESS(x,/
>   REMOVE_ALL)+'.dat'
>
> ;attempt 1
> ;Fills the pointer array with 14 dbl arrays. Use boo=PTR....
> ;   for i=0,13,1 do begin
> ;     boo[i]=PTR_NEW(DBLARR(512))
> ;     p5=boo[i]
> ;   endfor
> ;endfor
>
> ;attempt 2
> ;Creates two dimensional array of 14 columns with 512 elements. Use
> boo=DBL....
>   for i = 0,13,1 do begin
>     for j = 0,511,1 do begin
>       boo[i,j]=p5[j]
>     endfor
>     print, boo[i,300]
>   endfor
> endfor
>
>
> END
>
> Attempt one using the pointer array provides 14 arrays but the values
> are all zero, can anybody give a suggestion on how to store the new p5
```

> in boo[i]?

Don't you want something like this:

```
numFiles = 14
boo = PtrArr(numFiles)
FOR j=0,numFiles-1 DO BEGIN
    data = Read_Data(files[j])
    boo[j] = Ptr_New(Reform(data), /No_Copy)
ENDFOR
```

Now, each pointer points to an array of 512 columns and 5 rows  
(to make accessing each row faster!).

If you want the 5th vector of the 7th pointer:

```
thisRow = (*boo[6])[*,4]
```

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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

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Subject: Re: Question about storing arrays in pointer array.

Posted by [cgguido](#) on Thu, 08 Mar 2012 22:44:19 GMT

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On Thursday, March 8, 2012 3:42:44 PM UTC-6, Ian wrote:

```
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```

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> END
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> Attempt one using the pointer array provides 14 arrays but the values
> are all zero, can anybody give a suggestion on how to store the new p5
> in boo[i]?
>
> Thanks for your time.
> Sincerely
> Ian

```

What's wrong with a 3D array [14,512,5] ?

What does the pointer business do for you here?

G

---

Subject: Re: Question about storing arrays in pointer array.  
 Posted by [Ian\[2\]](#) on Fri, 09 Mar 2012 16:01:06 GMT  
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On Mar 8, 2:35 pm, David Fanning <n...@idlcoyote.com> wrote:

```

> Ian writes:
>

```

```

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>> attempting to read in 14 data files with 5 vectors of 512 elements. I
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```

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> ENDFOR
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> Now, each pointer points to an array of 512 columns and 5 rows
> (to make accessing each row faster!).
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>   thisRow = (*boo[6])[*,4]
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> Cheers,
>
> David
>
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.idlcoyote.com/
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
>
>
```

Great! Thank You!

---

Subject: Re: Question about storing arrays in pointer array.  
Posted by [lan\[2\]](#) on Fri, 09 Mar 2012 16:05:50 GMT  
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On Mar 8, 2:44 pm, Gianguido Cianci <[gianguido.cia...@gmail.com](mailto:gianguido.cia...@gmail.com)> wrote:

```
> On Thursday, March 8, 2012 3:42:44 PM UTC-6, lan wrote:
>> Hello All,
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>> Ian
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> What's wrong with a 3D array [14,512,5] ?
>
> What does the pointer business do for you here?
>
> G
>
>

```

I did not want to fill one array with all my data. I figured pointers might work well and allow faster plotting; however I got it to work with a 2D array (14,512)as well.

Thanks

Ian