Subject: assoc() allocates memory... why?
Posted by tarrall on Sat, 17 Feb 1996 08:00:00 GMT

This is re. vanilla IDL 4.0.1, not PV-Wave, but I'm posting here as
the comp.lang.idl newsgroup looks dead, at least at our site.

The IDL documentation claims quite clearly that assoc() does not
hold the data from the associated file in memory. However, it still
seems to allocate the memory; under both IRIX and SunOS when I
do something like:
 openr,1,"bigfile"
 x = assoc(1,fltarr(1000,301,180))
all the memory necessary to hold a 1000x301x180 array of floats
(i.e. 215 MB) is allocated by IDL. This seems very inefficient
at best and perhaps even just plain dumb...

Anyone have any comments on this?

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