Subject: Re: Dynamically sized arrays Posted by David Foster on Wed, 30 Apr 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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Michael Wu wrote:

- > Is there a way to dynamically size arrays? I am
- > writing a program to read data from files of unknown
- > quantity of data. Or is the only way to use handles?
- > I am at a loss to program handles.

>

First, I would pass along a gently RTFM, as your question could be answered pretty easily with a little perusing of the manuals.

To dynamically create arrays, just use the array creation routines and use variables to specify how big you want them to be, eg:

```
array = intarr(xdim, ydim)
```

(see also bytarr, lonarr, fltarr, strarr, dblarr, complexarr). Or you can use the even more convenient MAKE ARRAY routine.

As far as handles go, it's really not as intimidating as it sounds. Here's an example:

```
handle = handle_create()
                               ; Create handle
a = dist(100,100)
                           ; Create some data
handle value, handle, a, /set, /no copy ; Give data to handle
. . .
handle_value, handle, new_a ; Later, get data from handle
```

You can keep handles in common-blocks or, even better, put them in a structure and make that structure the UVALUE of the top-level-base (or first child) of your widget. See the User's Guide section on widget programming for an example of saving the "state information" this way, and using it in your event handler.

: Be sure to free!

Good luck! A good motto is "RTFM first, then post..."

Dave

handle_free, handle

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