
Subject: Re: general matrix multiplication

Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Mon, 23 Feb 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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David Schmidt wrote:

>
> All,
>
> I'm looking for a routine to perform generalized matrix multiplication
> over particular indexes within arrays. For example, let A be a
> (10,3,20) array and B be a (20,5,10,30) array. I want to be able to
> multiply and add (i.e. matrix multiply) the elements within index 1,3 of
> A and 3,1 of B and produce a result of dimension (3,5,10). While this
> can be done simply by using FOR loops, I'm looking for a routine that
> does this efficiently, using built-in IDL routines. Does anyone know of
> such a routine? ...how I could construct such a routine?
>
> Thanks,
>
> David
> --

hmmm - I am not sure I understand how you will get a result with the dimensions you indicate. Anyway, here some hints that will hopefully help you a little:

While matrix multiplication is indeed provided by IDL with the

operator (see online help:

"The ## operator does what is commonly referred to as matrix multiplication. It computes array elements by multiplying the rows of the first array by the columns of the second array. The second array must have the same number of rows as the first array has columns. The resulting array has the same number of rows as the first array and the same number of columns as the second array."

I don't think you will have a chance to get around the loops over 3, 5, and 30. Your piece of code should be something like

```
result = fltarr(10,10,3,5,30)
for i=0,2 do begin
  for j=0,4 do begin
    for k=0,29 do begin
      tmp = A(*,i,*) ## B(*,j,*,k)
      result(*,*,i,j,k) = tmp
    endfor
  endfor
endfor
```

Regards,

Martin.

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