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Subject: Re: Using MIN on arrays : Exorcising loops?  
Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Fri, 05 Oct 2001 16:01:51 GMT  
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Dick Jackson wrote:

```
>  
> "Andrew Cool" <cooladjc@chariot.net.au> wrote in message  
> news:3BBD96E8.B1329549@chariot.net.au...  
>> Hi all,  
>>  
>> I have three slabs of data [640,500] held as an array [640,500,3].  
>>  
>> I need to populate another 2D array [640,500] with the minimum  
>> value for every x,y coordinate found in the first 3 arrays.  
>>  
>> [...]  
>>  
>> There's gotta be a better way, surely? Some syntax variant on MIN?  
>  
> It sure would be nice if MIN and MAX had a Dimension parameter, just like  
> TOTAL has. It would be even nicer if it were coming in 5.5, to be released  
> Any Day Now, wouldn't it? Too bad that anyone who would know about this  
> would be bound by a non-disclosure agreement. ;-|
```

In other words, it sure would be nice if IDL could do something like this:

```
IDL> a = indgen(2, 5)  
IDL> print, a  
0    1  
2    3  
4    5  
6    7  
8    9  
IDL> print, min(a, dim=2)  
0    1  
IDL> print, min(a, dim=1)  
0    2    4    6    8
```

where the DIM keyword is the dimension number, starting at dimension 1.  
Maybe this will be supported by MIN and MAX in the not too distant future ;-)

While we're on the topic of future releases, here's a bit more information about multi-threading in IDL 5.5:

<http://www.rsinc.com/pr/detail.cfm?PressReleaseID=55>

Cheers,  
Liam.  
Practical IDL Programming  
<http://www.gumley.com/>

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