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Subject: Re: Reducing an array.  
Posted by [Dick Jackson](#) on Tue, 01 Oct 2002 20:53:26 GMT  
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"Craig Markwardt" <craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu> wrote in message  
news:on65wnysmk.fsf@cow.physics.wisc.edu...

>  
> "Joe" <foosej@hotmail.com> writes:  
>  
>> Hi- I'm somewhat new to IDL and was wondering what the most  
efficient way  
>> is to 'OR' all the elements of an array together resulting in a  
scalar  
>> value. I'm hoping IDL has a built-in way of doing this rather than  
using a  
>> FOR-LOOP. Similar to how IDL has the TOTAL function which sums all  
the  
>> elements of an array together. I've used other languages which  
allow you  
>> to 'reduce' arrays to a scalar using an arbitrary function (i.e.  
Python's  
>> reduce function).  
>>  
>> What I am doing is taking a lot of integer data which is either 0's  
or 1's  
>> and compressing it into the bits of 64-bit unsigned integers. Here  
is a bit  
>> of sample code:  
>>  
>> data = [1,0,0,0,1,1,1,0,1,0,1,0,0, ... , 0, 1, 0, 1] ; bunch of  
data, assume  
>> # of elements is multiple of 64  
>> shifts = reverse(indgen(n\_elements(data))) MOD 64  
>> compressed\_data = ishft(data,shifts)  
>> ; here is where I want to take the compressed\_data array and make it  
into a  
>> ; bunch (n\_elements(data)/64, to be exact) of unsigned 64-bit  
integers by  
>> OR'ing  
>> ; every 64 elements of compressed data together  
>  
> In this case you can use TOTAL() directly. First you REFORM() your  
> data into a 2-d array, 64xN, then then total the 1st dimension. This  
> works because each of your values has only one data bit set, so  
> summing and ORing are equivalent.  
>  
> compressed\_data = reform(compressed\_data, 64,  
n\_elements(compressed\_data)/64)

```
> result = total(compressed_data, 1)
>
> That's it! For JD, I could have combined both statements onto one
> line, but this is more readable.
```

There's one problem with this, in that Total() returns a Double result at best (with the /Double keyword), but Joe wanted 64-bit integers. A 64-bit Double value with some bits used as exponent cannot represent as many distinct values as the 64-bit integer, so we will lose information here.

Looks to me like this all has to be done in 64-bit integers. I'm sorry I can't find a \*really\* elegant solution for you right now, but if your data array is very large, then a single loop over 64 columns might not be too inefficient. Here's my best attempt (it does 100000 ints in 2.2 seconds here, fast enough?):

```
=====
```

```
data = RandomU(seed, 640) LT 0.5      ; Byte array of [0|1] values
```

```
nInts = N_Elements(data)/64
data2D = Reform(data, 64, nInts)
```

```
Print, 'binary:'
```

```
Print, data2D                ; Show [0|1] values
```

```
result = Replicate(0ULL, 1, nInts)   ; column array
```

```
;; If byte 0 is your high-order bit:
```

```
FOR i=0, 63 DO result = result OR ([0LL, 2ULL^(63-i)])[data2D[i, *]]
```

```
;;                this lookup is faster than
```

```
multiplying:
```

```
;                data2D[i, *] * 2ULL^(63-i)
```

```
;; If byte 0 is your low-order bit:
```

```
;FOR i=0, 63 DO result = result OR ([0LL, 2ULL^i])[data2D[i, *]]
```

```
Print, 'hex:'
```

```
Print, result, Format='(Z)'          ; Show hex values (will
correspond
```

```
                ; to [0|1] values above
```

```
Print, 'decimal:'
```

```
Print, result                    ; Show in base 10
```

```
=====
```

and one sample from the output:

binary:

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 1 0

1 1 1 0 1 1 1 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 1 0 1

1 0 1 0 1 1 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 1 1

hex:

FF10ADDC5796B157

decimal:

18379381241172898135

Hope this helps!

Cheers,

--

-Dick

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