
Subject: Re: IDL removes dimensions of size 1 automatically

Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Sun, 26 Sep 2004 08:36:34 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Benjamin Hornberger wrote:

```
> Hi all,
>
> I had a hard time finding a bug which came from IDL's behaviour to
> remove dimensions of size 1 automatically sometimes.
>
> IDL> a=[[1u,1u]]
> IDL> help,a
> A          UINT      = Array[2]
> IDL> ;; IDL doesn't even let me specify this (2,1) element array
> IDL> a=reform(a,2,1)
> IDL> help,a
> A          UINT      = Array[2, 1]
> IDL> b=fix(a)
> IDL> help,b
> B          INT       = Array[2]
> IDL> ;; IDL removed my second dimension even though I just wanted to
> change the type
> IDL> c=2*a
> IDL> help,c
> C          INT       = Array[2]
> IDL> print,c
>      2      2
> IDL> ;; again IDL kicked out my second dimension
>
> I found this very annoying. Does anyone know more about it? Why is it
> like that? In which situations will IDL do that?
>
> Thanks for any comments,
>
> Benjamin
```

Dear Benjamin

this is regular discussed here. It's not a bug because this is described in all documents about array handling from RSI.

I have had a lot of problems by this too. You could do a feature request to get a compiler option implemented which controls this too.

Here are an additional examples about this:

```
IDL> c=reform(make_array(10,1),10,1)
IDL> help,c
C          FLOAT    = Array[10, 1]
IDL> D=C
IDL> help,D
D          FLOAT    = Array[10]
```

The solution is:

```
IDL> c=reform(make_array(10,1),10,1)
IDL> s=size(c,/dim)
IDL> d=reform(c,s)
IDL> help,d
D          FLOAT    = Array[10, 1]
```

Reimar

--

Forschungszentrum Juelich
email: R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de
<http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/>

=====
a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich
http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html
