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Subject: Re: sorting of a multi-dimensional array in only one "direction"/dimension  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 02 Dec 2004 16:50:27 GMT  
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Timm Weitkamp writes:

```
> There may be better ways, but this here does the job without a loop
> (assuming you have IDL 5.6 or higher):
>
> tot = TOTAL(imgs, 3)
> min = MIN(imgs, DIMENSION=3)
> max = MAX(imgs, DIMENSION=3)
> avg = (tot - min - max) / 3.0
```

This reminds me...

I'm making notes for a 3rd Edition of my book.  
(Don't hold your breath, the outline is grandiose,  
so who knows if it will really happen. IDL has gotten  
so BIG!) One of my proposed chapters is "The IDL Way:  
Writing Code to Confuse Your Boss and Amaze Your Friends".  
This is the kind of material I'd like to have in there,  
not so much to be instructive, but to give people an  
idea of how these kinds of problems are solved.

I've saved these kinds of nuggets over the years,  
but I can use more. Does anyone have a good story  
to tell of how code that took days to run and pages  
to write ran in seconds with five lines of IDL code?  
(After consulting the IDL newsgroup, of course.)

I'd offer a prize, but I'm not drinking coffee or  
beer anymore after returning from Germany. I am  
completely disillusioned with what passes for both  
in America. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. Any you can throw in bread, too. :-)

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