Subject: Re: Array to Scalar
Posted by hahn on Thu, 24 Aug 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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sanjay@windvane.umd.edu (Sanjay K) wrote:

> I noticed, accidentally, that the multiplication of an array
> by a scalar and multiplication of an array by an array of length 1
> gives two different answers. Even though this is to be expected
> for general arrays, there needs to be an exception for array of
> size 1.

[Example deleted]

> -sanjay

What does IDL when a binary (two sided) operation of arrays of different length is requested ?

```
 a = [ 1, 2, 3, 4 ]
 b = [ 5, 6 ]
 help, a*b
EXPRESSION  INT = ARRAY(2)
```

Obviousliy IDL starts to multiply the arrays element by element until the shorter array is exhausted. Then the operation terminates. Thus, if one array is only one element in size, the result will only receive one element.

There is a big difference between one array element and a skalar variable:

* Using an array element as argument of a procedure call prevents you to change its value! Thus, you cannot read into an array element.

* Using x(*,5) in an expression will be interpreted as a matrix rather than a vector. While the assignment a = x(*,5) REFORMats this expression to a vector!

You can probably find more expamples when digging the manual, this is what just came into my mind...

Norbert Hahn