Subject: Re: Why does IDL strip unary dimensions from structure elements?
Posted by thompson on Thu, 26 Oct 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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Thomas A McGlynn <mcglynn@grossc.gsfc.nasa.gov> writes:

> I've been writing some IDL code which does a lot of generic
> stuff with dyamically defined structures, and I've run into
> a bug/feature that is causing some problems.

Stuff deleted, about the fact that IDL strips off trailing unary dimensions.

We've also run into this "feature", and it's a big pain. I'm sure it's there because somebody wanted it somewhere along the line, or thought it was a good idea.

It appears in many places, not only when working with structures. For example

```
IDL> a = indgen(3,1,1) & help,a
A               INT       = Array(3)
```

or

```
IDL> a = reform(a,3,1,1) & help,a
A               INT       = Array(3, 1, 1)
IDL> a = float(a) & help,a
A               FLOAT     = Array(3)
```

or

```
IDL> a = reform(a,3,1,1) & help,a
A               FLOAT     = Array(3, 1, 1)
IDL> a = a /3 & help,a
A               FLOAT     = Array(3)
```

The only way I've come across to get around this problem is to use the SIZE function to get the original dimensions, and then REFORM to put them back, e.g.

```
SZ = SIZE(A)
A = A / 3
A = REFORM(A, SZ(1:SZ(0)), /OVERWRITE)
```

As I said, it's a real pain.

Bill Thompson