
Subject: Re: how to preserve trailing Shallow dimensions!

Posted by [Mark\[1\]](#) on Sun, 17 Aug 2008 22:43:20 GMT

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Functions like `make_array` and `indgen` silently strip off trailing shallow dimensions, but it is possible to override this using `reform`, eg:

```
IDL> help, make_array(2,1,1)
<Expression>  FLOAT  = Array[2]
IDL> help, reform(make_array(2,1,1),2,1,1)
<Expression>  FLOAT  = Array[2, 1, 1]
```

The `size` function does accurately report the number of dimensions, I think

```
IDL> print, size(make_array(2,1,1), /DIMENSIONS)
      2
IDL> print, size(reform(make_array(2,1,1),2,1,1), /DIMENSIONS)
      2      1      1
```

However, IDL is generally prone to chopping them off when you least expect it, so is best to write code that will handle this.
