
Subject: Re: remove duplicate elements from a multi-dimensional array efficiently in IDL

Posted by [Jeremy Bailin](#) on Fri, 01 May 2009 18:36:18 GMT

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On May 1, 1:47 pm, Jeremy Bailin <astroco...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On May 1, 12:13 pm, "chenb...@gmail.com" <chenb...@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>

>

>> Hello, everyone!

>

>> Is there anyone knows a routine in IDL that be capable to remove
>> duplicate elements from a multi-dimensional array efficiently? I 'm
>> now working with huge arrays, and I have written one by myself, it
>> works but is with low efficiency.

>

>> example of my problem:

>> the input array:

>> 1,10,9,100,200

>> 2,11,8,101,201

>> 2,11,8,101,201

>> 3,10,9,100,200

>> 4,7,12,99,199

>> 2,11,8,101,201

>

>> goal:

>> remove the duplicate elements with the same values for the second and
>> the third column.

>

>> expected output:

>> 1,10,9,100,200

>> 2,11,8,101,201

>> 4,7,12,99,199

>

>> Thanks for your help!

>

>> Bo

>

> How's this:

>

> input = [[1,10,9,100,200],[2,11,8,101,201],[2,11,8,101,201],

> [3,10,9,100,200],[4,7,12,99,199],[2,11,8,101,201]]

>

> ; Step 1: Map your columns 2 and 3 into a single unique index

> (requires ORD from JBIU):

> col2ord = ord(input[1,*])

> col3ord = ord(input[2,*])

```

> index = col2ord + (max(col2ord)+1)*col3ord
>
> ; Step 2: Use histogram to find which ones have the same unique index
> h = histogram(index, reverse_indices=ri)
>
> ; Step 3: Get the first one in each bin, and put back in sorted order
> keep = ri[ri[where(h gt 0)]]
> keep = keep[sort(keep)]
>
> ; Step 4: Print them out:
> print, input[:,keep]
>
>      1      10      9      100     200
>      2      11      8      101     201
>      4       7     12       99     199
>
> -Jeremy.

```

Incidentally, if you're dealing with huge arrays and run into memory problems with the histogram, you can replace:

```
index = col2ord + (max(col2ord)+1)*col3ord
```

with

```
index = ord(col2ord + (max(col2ord)+1)*col3ord)
```

which will make the histogram as compact as possible.

-Jeremy.