Subject: The IDL way: Find last non-zero value
Posted by Eric Hudson on Mon, 24 Aug 2009 00:07:54 GMT
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Hi,

I have a 2D array that looks something like:
x x 0 x x 0 0 x 0 0 0 0 0
x 0 x x x 0 x x x x 0 0 0
x 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
x x x x x 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

where x is some non-zero (positive definite) value. You'll notice that each row ends with a string of zeros.
What I'd like to know is the 'IDL way' of returning a vector of the location (column) of the last non-zero elements in each row. So in this case, [7,9,0,4]

It's straight forward to program with loops, but I figure there must be a clever way. I thought that maybe reversing it and doing a cumulative total might be a start, but then I can't convince myself that that is really going to be faster than doing a loop.

For a sense of scale, the real array is something like 200 x 160000

Thanks,
Eric