
Subject: Re: extracting subarray (*,*,index) gives (1,1,index). WHY ???

Posted by [Thomas A. McGlynn](#) on Tue, 20 Aug 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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Uwe Knorr wrote:

```
>
> Dear reader,
>
> i want to extract a line from a 3D image by doing
> line = image(*,*,z)
> i expect line to be a 1d vector with dimension dim(z)
> or to be more IDLish, i expect the following to hold
> size(line) == (z)
> but instead I get
> size(line) == (1,1,z)
> I hope you know what I mean.
>
> Thanx for giving me some of your time,
>
> Uwe Knorr.
>
```

I'm a little confused by your message. I'm guessing what you want is something like:

```
x = fltarr(30,30,30)
y = x(1,1,*)
```

where you'd like y to be a one dimensional vector of length 30.
If so then you need to rewrite the second statement as

```
y = reform(x(1,1,*))
```

while will get rid of the extra leading dimensions.

What you describe though is:

```
y = x(*,*,1)
```

which will return y as a two-dimensional array and suppress the third dimension automatically. I.e., we'd have

```
size(y) == (2,30,30,4,900)
```

Hope this helps,

Tom McGlynn
