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Subject: Re: find max in 3D array -- slow  
Posted by [Mort Canty](#) on Sat, 10 Apr 2010 18:48:52 GMT  
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Am 10.04.2010 18:03, schrieb Timothy W. Hilton:

> Hello IDL users,  
>  
> I have a 1200x1200x2900 array of floats. The dimensions correspond to  
> latitude x longitude x time. I need to find the maximum at each  
> location -- that is, I need the 1200x1200 array containing the max  
> along the 3rd dimension. IDL takes almost 3 minutes to do this on my  
> system. This seemed slow. I compared it with Matlab, which took ten  
> seconds. Is there a better way to search for the maxima using IDL?  
>  
> The demo code I used to compare IDL and Matlab is below (with output).  
>  
> I'm wondering if I ought to switch to Matlab. I just spent a couple  
> of days writing IDL code to read my data, so I'd rather not.  
>  
> Many thanks,  
> Tim  
>  
> --  
>  
> Timothy W. Hilton  
> PhD Candidate, Department of Meteorology  
> The Pennsylvania State University  
> 503 Walker Building, University Park, PA 16802  
> hilton@meteo.psu.edu  
>  
> =====  
> scratch.pro:  
>  
> foo = randomu(0, 1200, 1200, 2920)  
> PRINT, systime()  
> foo\_max = max(foo, DIMENSION = 3)  
> PRINT, systime()  
> END  
>  
> IDL> .run scratch  
> % Compiled module: \$MAIN\$.  
> Sat Apr 10 10:44:44 2010  
> Sat Apr 10 10:47:36 2010  
> IDL>  
>  
> =====  
> scratch.m:  
>

```
> foo = rand(1200,1200,2920);
> fprintf('%s\n', datestr(now()));
> foo_max = max(foo, [], 3);
> fprintf('%s\n', datestr(now()));
>
>>> scratch
> 10-Apr-2010 10:42:45
> 10-Apr-2010 10:42:55
>
```

Seventeen Gigabytes!? Takes `_forever_` on my PC :-)

Mort

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