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Subject: Re: 2-d histogram and Routines of same name  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 17 May 2010 12:57:49 GMT  
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Mrunmayee writes:

> Then I felt this is a histogram problem. So went to IDL's hist\_2d  
> which does what I want, but doesn't return reverse indices. But I did  
> find hist\_nd written by David. This routine uses PRODUCT(.., /  
> Preserve\_Type). Unfortunately, idlastrolib ALSO contains the routine  
> of the same name which DOESN'T use the keywords in IDL's routine. So I  
> keep getting KEYWORD NOT ALLOWED error. My guess is that (because of  
> various issues, I have to set my IDL\_PATH such that) this other  
> routine always get compiled first. When I have such a problem, of  
> having two routines of same name doing things differently, I usually  
> compile with full path. E.g  
>  
> .com /path/to/routine/I/want/routinename  
>  
> But I don't think there is any product.pro in IDL's libs. So my second  
> problem is how do I tell IDL to use inbuilt function instead of user  
> written when there is no .pro file associated with it?

Well, you are right, your first problem is a 2D  
histogram problem. :-)

Your second problem is more worrisome. (And it is  
JD Smith's routine, not mine. I just host it.) This  
may truly be one of those problems that don't have  
a good solution. Or, maybe I just haven't thought of  
it yet.

If I just wanted to get on with my day, I'd probably  
delete product.pro from the NASA library. It seems to  
be a subset of the IDL routine, although there is no  
question in my mind which was on the IDL scene first.

But I can absolutely see why this isn't a good long-term  
solution. Maybe PRODUCT has been in IDL long enough now  
that Wayne could safely remove it from the NASA Library.  
I don't know. I'd like to hear what the principles  
have to say about this.

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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