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Subject: Re: Search single column of array - removing nasty loop

Posted by [rjp23](#) on Thu, 01 Dec 2011 12:10:12 GMT

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On Dec 1, 12:00 pm, Yngvar Larsen <larsen.yng...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Dec 1, 11:37 am, Rob <rj...@le.ac.uk> wrote:

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>> On Nov 30, 8:15 pm, Yngvar Larsen <larsen.yng...@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>>> On Nov 29, 6:53 pm, Heinz Stege <public.215....@arcor.de> wrote:

>

>>>> Hi Rob,

>

>>>> no loop necessary:

>

>>>> array=(randomu(seed,2,6,360,42)-.1)>0. ; sample array

>>>> array=reform(array,n\_elements(array)/42,42,/overwrite)

>>>> ii=where(min(array,dim=2) eq 0.,count)

>>>> if count ge 1 then array[ii,\*]=0.

>>>> array=reform(array,2,6,360,42,/overwrite)

>

>>> Hm. The /OVERWRITE keyword to REFORM was new to me. Thanks!

>

>>> Silly me. I have somehow always imagined that the compiler was smart

>>> enough to do this (i.e. not copy any data, only alter the internal IDL

>>> descriptor of the ARRAY variable) automatically when input and output

>>> to REFORM is the same variable. But a bit of profiling shows this is

>>> not at all the case. This will be very useful many places in my

>>> operational code...

>

>>> A small comment to the code above: "where(min(array,dim=2) eq 0.)"

>>> obviously only works if array contains only non-negative data. If not,

>>> "where(total(array eq 0, 2) gt 0)" will do the trick also for floating

>>> point data containing negative numbers, with more or less the same

>>> performance.

>

>>> --

>>> Yngvar

>

>> Thanks, that explains why a few results were coming out slightly

```
>> differently as there are a few negative values.
>
>> Also, the code fails when the final column only has 1 element in it.
>
>> IDL> help, array
>> ARRAY          DOUBLE   = Array[4320, 1]
>> IDL> help, total(array eq 0, 2)
>> % TOTAL: For input argument <BYTE   Array[4320]>, Dimension must be
>> 1.
>
> If the final column has only 1 element, the operation is not necessary
> at all since all elements are already 0 :)
>
> IDL sometimes behaves rather idiotic with singleton dimensions:
>
> IDL> help, fltarr(4320, 1)
> <Expression>   FLOAT    = Array[4320]
>
> This is a problem when arrays are expected to be 2D, and suddenly are
> automatically 1D. You can avoid it by adding an explicit REFORM
> statement at the appropriate place in the code:
>
> ;; Force ARRAY to be 2D always
> if (size(array, /n_dimensions) eq 1) then $
>   array = reform(array, n_elements(array), 1, /overwrite)
>
> --
> Yngvar
```

I'm not sure if that's the solution as the array was already 2D:

```
>> IDL> help, array
>> ARRAY          DOUBLE   = Array[4320, 1]
```

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