
Subject: Re: Cumulative max() in *arbitrary* dimension?

Posted by [JDS](#) on Fri, 09 Mar 2012 15:50:24 GMT

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On Thursday, March 8, 2012 4:15:19 PM UTC-5, Lajos Foldy wrote:

> On Mar 8, 7:33 pm, JDS <jdtsmith.nos...@yahoo.com> wrote:

```
>
>>
>> IDL> a=byte(randomu(sd,300,400,3000)*256)
>> IDL> t=systime(1) & b=max(a,DIMENSION=3) & print,systime(1)-t
>> IDL> t=systime(1) & b2=a[*,* ,0] & for i=1,3000-1 do b2>=a[*,* ,i] & print,systime(1)-t
>> IDL> print,array_equal(b,b2)
```

```
>>
>> I can only presume the built-in MAX has some design limitations for final dimension looping.
I presume this all works the same way for MIN, BTW.
```

```
>
> b=max(a,DIMENSION=3) is equivalent to
```

```
>
> b=a[*,* ,0]
> for j1=0,299 do begin
>   for j2=0,399 do begin
>     b[j1,j2]=a[j1,j2,0]
>     for j3=1,2999 do b[j1,j2]>=a[j1,j2,j3]
>   endfor
> endfor
```

```
>
> Your solution is equivalent to
```

```
>
> b2=a[*,* ,0]
> for j3=1,2999 do begin
>   for j2=0,399 do begin
>     for j1=0,299 do b2[j1,j2]>=a[j1,j2,j3]
>   endfor
> endfor
```

```
>
> The big difference comes from the memory access pattern.
```

Seems sensible. I guess I'm surprised that MAX doesn't order the nested loops sensibly, given that it must of course have a large different loop sets for each of the possible total dimensions/target dimension combinations.

JD
