Subject: Matrix algebra and index order, A # B vs A ## B
Posted by   on Mon, 26 Mar 2012 11:33:02 GMT

IDL has two operators for matrix multiplication, # and ##. The former assumes the matrices involved have colum number as the first index and row number as the second, i.e., A_{rc} = A[c,r] with mathematics on the LHS and IDL on the RHS. The latter operator makes the opposite assumption, A_{rc} = A[r,c].

I believe much headache can be avoided if one chooses one notation and sticks with it. If it were only me, I'd choose the A_{rc} = A[r,c] notation. But it isn't only me, because I like to take advantage of IDL routines written by others. So, has there merged some kind of consensus among influential IDL programmers (those that write publicly available routines that are widely used - thank you BTW!) for which convention to use?