
Subject: Re: The IDL way, summing variable sized slices of array.

Posted by [d19997919](#) on Wed, 04 Apr 2012 15:38:33 GMT

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On Wednesday, April 4, 2012 3:59:54 PM UTC+1, Russell wrote:

> On Apr 4, 4:00 am, d19997...@gmail.com wrote:

>> Hi,

>>

>> I've recently been learning how to use REBIN/REFORM etc. to do the heavy lifting rather than loops, (saving me at least an order of magnitude in execution time in some of the code I'm working with). I have a situation now where I don't know if it's possible to completely remove loops so I was hoping someone more experienced could illuminate me.

>>

>> In essence the problem is that I have a 3D array which I want to reduce to a 2D array by summing over elements of the first dimension. This wouldn't be an issue apart from the fact that the range of elements that I wish to sum over varies depending on the value of the second dimension.

>>

>> In code what I have at the moment looks a bit like:

>>

>> d=DBLARR(nt,nl,ne) ;Array of data

>> t=DBLARR(nt) ; Array of "axis" values

>> b=DBLARR(nl,2) ;Array of summation limits

>> p=DBLARR(nl,ne) ; Array of answer

>>

>> ;<<BIT OF CODE TO FILL THESE ARRAYS>>

>>

>> FOR i=0L,nl-1 DO BEGIN

>> tmp=TOTAL(d[b[i,0]:b[i,1],i,*],1) ;Sum elements

>> p[i,*]=tmp/TOTAL(t[b[i,0]:b[i,1]]) ;Store sum divided by sum of axis (i.e. get average value over summation range)

>> ENDFOR

>> RETURN,p

>>

>> Any help will be appreciated,

>>

>> Note whilst nl is not necessarily large in the cases I'll be looking at, i'm still interesting in "the IDL way" for this as part of my learning!

>>

>> Thanks,

>> David

>

> Not, sure... This sounds like the rare case where loops are useful.

> BTW, I'm guessing you have a loop to fill the arrays? If so, then why

> not stick this part in that loop?

>

> Russell

Actually I've managed to eliminate loops in the other bit of code to fill the arrays (and this code actually consists of a few other functions).

One way I've thought of doing this is to create a logical array which has the same dimensions as *d* and is zero outside the *b* index range and 1 inside. I can then multiply *d* by this and then just sum over the whole array, seen as *d* is now zero outside the region of interest it shouldn't effect the result of the call to TOTAL.

Any tips on the best way to achieve this?
