
Subject: Re: What are the rules for automatic removal of singleton dimensions, and can I have a way of disabling them, please?

Posted by [tom.grydeland](#) on Wed, 26 Dec 2012 14:12:35 GMT

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On Wednesday, December 26, 2012 10:25:09 AM UTC+1, Mats Löfdahl wrote:

> I thought the idea with the stripping of dimensions was that it shouldn't matter whether these dimensions are there or not. I mean, you can still address `a[2,2,0]` when `a=fltarr(5,5)`. So shouldn't the fix really be to make `total()` work for non-existing trailing dimensions?

In my mind, the fix is to make things behave *_less_* arbitrarily, not *_more_* so. I would happily accept indexing that raised exceptions on nonexistent dimensions, if I could rely on the dimensions not disappearing when I didn't ask for it.

A related and tangential question for the IDL internals wizards: Can the evaluator distinguish between single-valued indexes and a single-element range index? I.e. can it tell the difference between `a[*],0]` and `a[*],0:ii]` when `ii eq 0`?

> (Or, if just to make your code less messy, to write a `mytotal()` function that takes care of the exceptions.)

That solution is worse than the problem, IMO. How many other functions will I have to replace?

--T
