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

Posted by on Wed, 26 Dec 2012 09:25:09 GMT

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Den måndagen den 24:e december 2012 kl. 00:01:24 UTC+1 skrev Tom Grydeland:

> Hello all,

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> I was trying to visualize subsections of a windowing function when this bit me.

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> I was creating piecewise results in an array `res[ix, iy, ii, jj]`, where the partial results were sums up to some value in the final two indices

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> for `ii = 0, Kx-1` do begin

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> for `jj = 0, Ky-1` do begin

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> visualize, total(total(`res[*,*;0:ii,0:jj]`), 4), 3)

>

> endfor

>

> endfor

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> but the problem is that IDL (arbitrarily, IMO) discards trailing singleton dimensions on my indexing, so that `res[*,*;0:ii,0:jj]` ends up as a two-dimensional array when both `ii` and `jj` are zero, and a three-dimensional index on subsequent cases of `jj` being zero, which again causes the calls to 'total' to fail. The innermost portion of these loops become extraordinarily messy if trying to fix this problem.

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> I've fixed my program by reordering the indices (to `[ii, jj, ix, iy]`), but I am still miffed that this should be necessary.

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> Similarly, when I concatenate arrays of dimensions `[x, j]` and `[y, j]`, I expect a result with dimensions `[x+y, j]`, even when `j` is equal to 1. I'm trying to write programs independent of the actual value of `j`, but these arbitrary removals of singleton dimensions make my task that much harder.

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>
> Is there a way to disable this stripping of singleton dimensions?

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?

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