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

Posted by [Jeremy Bailin](#) on Thu, 17 Jan 2013 14:58:34 GMT

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On 1/17/13 2:11 AM, Tom Grydeland wrote:

> On Wednesday, January 16, 2013 12:09:45 PM UTC+1, Tom Grydeland wrote:

>
> Since I'm talking to myself here, I might as well reply to myself also.
>
>> (Of course, in line with Mats Lijndahl's suggestion earlier, TRANSPOSE could also be modified to add back singleton dimensions to its input array as necessary.)

>
> Having written this, I decided to go ahead and do it that way also, just to see. It feels a little bit like I'm fixing IDL's bugs for them instead of working on the problems I'm actually paid to solve. I tried writing MY_TRANSPOSE so that it can be a drop-in replacement of TRANSPOSE, i.e. it shall give exactly the same results as TRANSPOSE for every input that TRANSPOSE will accept.

>
> The tedium of adding singleton dimensions was factored out to a function ATLEAST_N_DIM, which modifies and returns its first argument.

>
> I'm putting these functions out there for anyone to see or use as they see fit.

>
> I am still hopeful that I can get a COMPILE_OPT that would (within a certain scope) disable stripping of trailing singleton dimensions, so I wouldn't have to resort to such hackery or the replacement of base IDL functionality.

>
> Stylistic comments, suggestions, etc?

> ;+
> ; Small utility that ensures its input array has dimensionality at least N.
> ; Modifies _and_ returns its input, without making copies.

> ;
> ;:Params:
> ; a: in, out
> ; array to modify dimensionality of
> ; n: in, type=integer
> ; minimum number of dimensions for result

> ;:Returns:
> ; a, with zero or more singleton dimensions appended

> ;:See also:
> ; MY_TRANSPOSE, DENSEGRID

> ;-
> function atleast_n_dim, a, n
> adim = size(a, /dimensions)

```

>   if n_elements(adim) ge n then return, a
>
>   adim = [adim, make_array(n-n_elements(adim), value=1)]
>   a = reform(a, adim, /overwrite)
>   return, a
> end
>
> ;+
> ; Version of TRANSPOSE that will add singleton dimensions if needed
> ;
> ;:See also:
> ; ATLEAST_N_DIM, DENSEGRID
> ;-
> function my_transpose, arr, perm
>   ;; defer simple cases to native TRANSPOSE
>   if n_elements(perm) eq 0 then return, transpose(arr)
>
>   adims = size(arr, /dimensions)
>   np = max(perm)+1
>   na = n_elements(adims)
>   if np le na then return, transpose(arr, perm)
>
>   narr = transpose(atleast_n_dim(arr, np), perm)
>   ;; set dimensions of arr back to what they were
>   arr = reform(arr, adims, /overwrite)
>   return, narr
> end
>

```

Looks good to me - I will definitely use them (at least the utility function).

-Jeremy.