
Subject: Re: derivative function in IDL similar as DIFF in matlab

Posted by [Jie Zhou](#) on Tue, 12 Nov 2013 12:18:01 GMT

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On Tuesday, November 12, 2013 1:08:10 PM UTC+1, Matthew Argall wrote:

> On Tuesday, November 12, 2013 7:01:15 AM UTC-5, Matthew Argall wrote:

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>> On Tuesday, November 12, 2013 5:08:11 AM UTC-5, Jie Zhou wrote:

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>>> Is there a derivative function in IDL similar as DIFF in matlab? I think the DERIV is different from DIFF.

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>> TS_DIFF(data, 1) would be equivalent.

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> Actually, maybe not. TS_DIFF calculates the forward difference. I think you are looking for the backward difference.

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> In that case, I tend to use

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>

> result = data[1:*] - data[0:n_elements(data)-1]

>

>

>

> or

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>

>

> result = shift(data, 1) - data

>

> result = result[0:n_elements(result)-1]

In fact what I tried to do is using diff function to calculate the n-th derivative of an 2-d matrix. for example, for a matrix:

A=

```

1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1

```

in matlab, the DIFF(A,2) gives:

```

1 -2 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
0 1 -2 1 0 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 1 -2 1 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 1 -2 1 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 1 -2 1 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 1 -2 1 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 0 1 -2 1 0
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 -2 1

```

Until now, I don't find a equivalent function in IDL.

Thanks to alx, I use

`D=(shift(shift(A,0,1)-A,0,1)-(shift(A,0,1)-A))[*,2:*`

to finish the task.

jie
