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Subject: Re: Generating a grid in the 3D,4D,5D...N space -

Advice/Combinatory/Matrices

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Tue, 14 Nov 2017 00:04:58 GMT

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On 11/13/17 7:50 AM, clement.feller@obspm.fr wrote:

> Hello everyone,

>

> I coming back to you for some advice on how to properly generate a grid in an N-D space. I hope that this expression is the proper one in english, but in any case, let me illustrate this by the following exemple:

>> a = indgen(3,3) & print, a

> 0 1 2

> 3 4 5

> 6 7 8

>

> What I am looking for would be to find the clean and proper IDL way to generate the following sets of combinations:

> 0,1,2

> 0,1,5

> 0,1,8

> 0,4,2

> 0,4,5

> .....

> .....

>

> 6,7,2

> 6,7,5

> 6,7,8

>

> Now, I have found ways to do this for a 2D,3D,4D,5D space with either nested loops (yuck! I know), or with combinations of rebin, reform and transpose.

> I've been successfully using those solutions for several weeks, yet I wonder on how to expand this to a general case and in the proper IDL way.

>

> Why and how this is useful to me ?

> I am actually trying to evaluate a function with several parameters. Let's call it f(x, p\_0, ..., p\_n). Given x, I want to evaluate f with multiple sets of parameters.

> E.g. to generate a regular grid I can use INTERPOLATE, e.g. for a 2D space with 10 evaluations for each dimension:

>

>> p = [[0.,1.], [0,100]]

>> p = transpose(p)

>> interpolate(p,1./9.\*findgen(10))

> 0.0000000 0.0000000

> 0.11111111 11.111112

> 0.22222222 22.222223

> 0.33333334 33.333336

> 0.44444445 44.444447  
> 0.55555558 55.555557  
> 0.66666669 66.666672  
> 0.77777779 77.777779  
> 0.88888890 88.888893  
> 1.0000000 100.00000

> If one wants an irregular grid (with 10 evaluations in the first dimension and 5 in the second one), one can use a nested loop and play with indices.

>

> So, once you have this table, how can one generate the proper sets of combinations of indices ?

> Another way to look at it is that you just want to "multiply" or chunk index your table, i.e. to generate the n vector used in the histogram's i-vector example ([http://www.idlcoyote.com/tips/histogram\\_tutorial.html](http://www.idlcoyote.com/tips/histogram_tutorial.html)).

>

> I've playing around with nested indgen, looking for a repetitive motive from the 2D to the 5D space when using rebin, reform, transpose to assemble a generic command. But nothing much so far....

>

> Does anybody out there already had a go with such problem before or any advice ?

>

> I thank you all in advance for your replies.

> Cheers,

> /C

>

I don't have a good solution. I think the below routine is general, but slow solution:

[https://github.com/mgalloy/mglib/blob/master/src/analysis/mg\\_find\\_combinations.pro](https://github.com/mgalloy/mglib/blob/master/src/analysis/mg_find_combinations.pro)

Mike

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Modern IDL: A Guide to IDL Programming (<http://modernidl.idldev.com>)