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Subject: Re: REPLICATE with arrays

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Fri, 11 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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davidf@dfanning.com (David Fanning) writes:

> Vince Hradil (hradilv@yahoo.com) writes:

>

>> I often have the need to replicate an array, but IDL's replicate only

>> works with scalars. Does anyone have any tips on the most efficient,

>> simplest, clearest (you choose) way to do this?

>

> I am such a sucker for these kinds of articles. :-(

> ...

I'll add my implementation to the competition. Here is CMREPLICATE which takes either a scalar or array. It uses the REFORM/REBIN magic that has already been discussed, for numeric types. For other types I did have to revert to MAKE\_ARRAY/copy technique, but I've sped up the copy vs a simple for loop. Obfuscatory I am sure!

It's also available at my web page (and if you are a regular check the NEWS too, since I've made a few other updates):

<http://cow.physics.wisc.edu/~craigm/idl/idl.html>

Craig

```
;+
```

```
; NAME:
```

```
; CMREPLICATE
```

```
;
```

```
; AUTHOR:
```

```
; Craig B. Markwardt, NASA/GSFC Code 662, Greenbelt, MD 20770
```

```
; craigm@lheamail.gsfc.nasa.gov
```

```
;
```

```
; PURPOSE:
```

```
; Replicates an array or scalar into a larger array, as REPLICATE does.
```

```
;
```

```
; CALLING SEQUENCE:
```

```
; ARRAY = CMREPLICATE(VALUE, DIMS)
```

```
;
```

```
; DESCRIPTION:
```

```
;
```

```
; The CMREPLICATE function constructs an array, which is filled with
```

```
; the specified VALUE template. CMREPLICATE is very similar to the
```

```
; built-in IDL function REPLICATE. However there are two
```

```
; differences:
```

```
;
```

```
;
```

```

; * the VALUE can be either scalar or an ARRAY.
;
; * the dimensions are specified as a single vector rather than
;   individual function arguments.
;
; For example, if VALUE is a 2x2 array, and DIMS is [3,4], then the
; resulting array will be 2x2x3x4.
;
; INPUTS:
;
; VALUE - a scalar or array template of any type, to be replicated.
;   NOTE: These two calls do not produce the same result:
;     ARRAY = REPLICATE( 1, DIMS)
;     ARRAY = REPLICATE([1], DIMS)
;   In the first case the output dimensions will be DIMS and
;   in the second case the output dimensions will be 1xDIMS
;   (except for structures). That is, a vector of length 1 is
;   considered to be different from a scalar.
;
; DIMS - Dimensions of output array (which are combined with the
;   dimensions of the input VALUE template). If DIMS is not
;   specified then VALUE is returned unchanged.
;
; RETURNS:
;   The resulting replicated array.
;
; EXAMPLE:
;   x = [0,1,2]
;   help, cmreplicate(x, [2,2])
;   <Expression> INT    = Array[3, 2, 2]
;   Explanation: The 3-vector x is replicated 2x2 times.
;
;   x = 5L
;   help, cmreplicate(x, [2,2])
;   <Expression> LONG   = Array[2, 2]
;   Explanation: The scalar x is replicated 2x2 times.
;
; SEE ALSO:
;
;   REPLICATE
;
; MODIFICATION HISTORY:
;   Written, CM, 11 Feb 2000
;
; -
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; This software is provided as is without any warranty whatsoever.
; Permission to use, copy, modify, and distribute modified or

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```

; unmodified copies is granted, provided this copyright and disclaimer
; are included unchanged.
;-
function cmreplicate, array, dims

if n_params() EQ 0 then begin
    message, 'RARRAY = CMREPLICATE(ARRAY, DIMS)', /info
    return, 0L
endif

if n_elements(dims) EQ 0 then return, array
if n_elements(array) EQ 0 then $
    message, 'ERROR: ARRAY must have at least one element'

;; Construct new dimensions, being careful about scalars
sz = size(array)
type = sz(sz(0)+1)
if sz(0) EQ 0 then return, make_array(value=array, dimension=dims)
onedims = [sz(1:sz(0)), dims*0+1] ;; For REFORM, to extend # of dims.
newdims = [sz(1:sz(0)), dims ] ;; For REBIN, to enlarge # of dims.
nnewdims = n_elements(newdims)

if nnewdims GT 8 then $
    message, 'ERROR: resulting array would have too many dimensions.'

if type NE 7 AND type NE 8 AND type NE 10 AND type NE 11 then begin
    ;; Handle numeric types

    ;; Argghh! Why doesn't REBIN take an *array* of dimensions!
    ;; *Instead* we need to run EXECUTE(), with a string like this:
    ;; rebin(array1, newdims(0), newdims(1), ...)
    ;; That's what the following format string does.
    fmt = ('+strtrim(nnewdims,2)+'("newdims(",10,")";,","))'
    arglist = string(lindgen(nnewdims), format=fmt)
    cmd = 'return, rebin(reform([array], onedims),' + arglist + ')'
    dummy = execute(cmd)

    ;; If execution reaches here then an error occurred.
    message, 'ERROR: array could not be resized'
    return, 0L

endif else begin
    ;; Handle strings, structures, pointers, and objects separately

    ;; Handle structures, which are never scalars
    if type EQ 8 AND sz(0) EQ 1 AND n_elements(array) EQ 1 then $
        return, make_array(value=array, dimension=dims)

```

```

nold = n_elements(array)
nadd = 1L
for i = 0L, n_elements(dims)-1 do nadd = nadd * long(dims(i))
array1 = make_array(type=sz(sz(0)+1), dimension=[nold,nadd])
array2 = reform([array], n_elements(array))

;; Efficient copying, done by powers of two
array1(0,0) = array2
stride = 1L ;; stride increase by a factor of two in each iteration
i = 1L & nleft = nadd - 1
while nleft GT stride do begin
    array1(0,i) = array1(*,0:stride-1) ;; Note sneaky IDL optimization
    i = i + stride & nleft = nleft - stride
    stride = stride * 2
endwhile
if nleft GT 0 then array1(0,i) = array1(*,0:nleft-1)

return, reform(array1, newdims, /overwrite)
endelse

end

```

---

**Subject:** Re: REPLICATE with arrays  
**Posted by** [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Fri, 11 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT  
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David Fanning <davidf@dfanning.com> wrote in message  
news:MPG.130e00a4f5f14484989a29@news.frii.com...

> William Thompson (thompson@orpheus.nascom.nasa.gov) writes:  
>  
>> Stein Vidar Haugan once proposed the following strategy which appears to  
be  
>> highly efficient:  
>>  
>> x2 = rebin( reform(x,3,3,1), 3,3,2)  
>  
> And Liam Gumley (Liam.Gumley@ssec.wisc.edu) writes:  
>  
>> IDL> arr = rebin(reform(arr, 3, 3, 1), 3, 3, 2, /sample)  
>  
> I don't think the IDL newsgroup is the proper place to  
> practice the occult sciences. I wish you guys would cut  
> it out. :-(

I'll admit that two reshape operations in one line is a bad idea. But if  
it's re-written as

arr = reform(arr, 3, 3, 1) ; add an extra dimension  
arr = rebin(arr, 3, 3, 2, /sample) ; expand along the extra dimension

then I think it's about as clear as you can get (in the IDL world anyway).

Cheers,  
Liam.

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Subject: Re: REPLICATE with arrays  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 11 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT  
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I don't think the IDL newsgroup is the proper place to practice the occult sciences. I wish you guys would cut it out. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. What the heck has happened to Stein Vidar!? He didn't finally get his Ph.D. and move on to a real job, did he?

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
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Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: [davidf@dfanning.com](mailto:davidf@dfanning.com)  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

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Subject: Re: REPLICATE with arrays  
Posted by [thompson](#) on Fri, 11 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT  
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Vince Hradil <hradilv@yahoo.com> writes:

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> works with scalars. Does anyone have any tips on the most efficient,  
> simplest, clearest (you choose) way to do this?

> e.g.

> I have:

> help, x

> INT = Array[3, 3]

> print, x

> 2 4 10

> 3 7 5

> 3 9 2

> and would like to do:

> x2 = replicate(x,2)

> help, x2

> INT = Array[3, 3, 2]

> print, x2

> 2 4 10

> 3 7 5

> 3 9 2

> 2 4 10

> 3 7 5

> 3 9 2

> I've figured out some trick for 1 and 2 dimensional arrays, but I'm

> looking for a more general strategy to use on higher dim arrays.

Stein Vidar Haugan once proposed the following strategy which appears to be highly efficient:

```
x2 = rebin( reform(x,3,3,1), 3,3,2)
```

If one always wants the replication dimension to be the last dimension, then the following should be a good way of generalizing it:

```
sz = size(x)
```

```
dim = sz[1:sz[0]]
```

```
x2 = reform(x,[dim,1])
```

```
case n_elements(dim) of
```

```
  1: x2=rebin(x2,dim(0),n)
```

```
  2: x2=rebin(x2,dim(0),dim(1),n)
```

```
  3: x2=rebin(x2,dim(0),dim(1),dim(2),n)
```

```
  4: x2=rebin(x2,dim(0),dim(1),dim(2),dim(3),n)
```

```
5: x2=rebin(x2,dim(0),dim(1),dim(2),dim(3),dim(4),n)
6: x2=rebin(x2,dim(0),dim(1),dim(2),dim(3),dim(4),dim(5),n)
7: x2=rebin(x2,dim(0),dim(1),dim(2),dim(3),dim(4),dim(5),dim(6) ,n)
endcase
```

William Thompson

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Subject: Re: REPLICATE with arrays  
Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Fri, 11 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT  
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news:38A43130.D0ACB994@yahoo.com...

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> and would like to do:  
> x2 = replicate(x,2)  
> help, x2  
> INT = Array[3, 3, 2]  
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> 2 4 10  
> 3 7 5  
> 3 9 2

>  
> 2 4 10  
> 3 7 5  
> 3 9 2

>  
> I've figured out some trick for 1 and 2 dimensional arrays, but I'm  
> looking for a more general strategy to use on higher dim arrays.

How about this:

```
IDL> arr = indgen(3, 3)
IDL> print, arr
```

```
0 1 2
3 4 5
6 7 8
```

```
IDL> arr = rebin(reform(arr, 3, 3, 1), 3, 3, 2, /sample)
```

```
IDL> print, arr
```

```
0 1 2
3 4 5
6 7 8
```

```
0 1 2
3 4 5
6 7 8
```

REFORM adds an extra dimension, and REBIN expands the array along the extra dimension. This will work just fine for higher dimensions.

Cheers,

Liam.

<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley>

Subject: Re: REPLICATE with arrays

Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 11 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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> works with scalars. Does anyone have any tips on the most efficient,  
> simplest, clearest (you choose) way to do this?

I am such a sucker for these kinds of articles. :-)

I don't know about "efficient, simplest, clearest", but here is something that works for the three cases (1D, 2D, and 3D arrays) I tried it on. I leave it to your imagination to figure out the rest of the cases. It seemed like details to me. :-)

Cheers,

David

\*\*\*\*\*

```
FUNCTION Replicate_Array, array, number
```

```
; Obtain information about the array.
```

```
ndims = Size(array, /N_Dimensions)
dims = Size(array, /Dimensions)
type = Size(array, /TName)
```

```
; Initialize some variables.
```

```
snumber = StrTrim(number,2)
newArray = 0
```

```
; Create the new array and populate it with the old array.
```

```
CASE ndims OF
```

```
1: BEGIN
```

```
command = 'newArray = Make_Array(' + StrTrim(dims[0],2) + ',' $
+ snumber + ',' + type + '=1)'
ok = Execute(command)
FOR j=0,number-1 DO newArray[* ,j] = array
END
```

```
2: BEGIN
```

```
command = 'newArray = Make_Array(' + StrTrim(dims[0],2) + ',' + $
StrTrim(dims[1],2) + ',' + snumber + ',' + type + '=1)'
ok = Execute(command)
FOR j=0,number-1 DO newArray[* ,*,j] = array
END
```

```
3: BEGIN
```

```
command = 'newArray = Make_Array(' + StrTrim(dims[0],2) + ',' + $
StrTrim(dims[1],2) + ',' + StrTrim(dims[2],2) + ',' + snumber $
+ ',' + type + '=1)'
ok = Execute(command)
FOR j=0,number-1 DO newArray[* ,*,*,j] = array
END
```

```
ELSE: Print, 'Sorry, figure this out yourself. :-)'
```

```
ENDCASE
```

```
RETURN, newArray
```

```
END
```

```
*****
```

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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