
Subject: Re: accessing reverse_indices

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 29 May 2002 13:25:14 GMT

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Jaco van Gorkom (j.c.van.gorkom@fz-juelich.de) writes:

> yesterday I got myself soo frustrated with the HISTOGRAM
> function and with its awefulsome keyword REVERSE_INDICES,
> that I decided to make this world a slightly better place by
> writing a utility function to access the reverse indices.

Bless you, Jaco! :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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Subject: Re: accessing reverse_indices

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Wed, 29 May 2002 14:34:11 GMT

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"Jaco van Gorkom" <j.c.van.gorkom@fz-juelich.de> writes:

> Hi all,
>
> yesterday I got myself soo frustrated with the HISTOGRAM
> function and with its awefulsome keyword REVERSE_INDICES,
> that I decided to make this world a slightly better place by
> writing a utility function to access the reverse indices.
... [cool function elided] ...

Jaco--

What happens if the particular bin is empty? It looks like HISTOBINS
returns -1 which will gum the works, right?

Craig

--

Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response

Subject: Re: accessing reverse_indices

Posted by [Jaco van Gorkom](#) on Wed, 29 May 2002 15:07:48 GMT

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"Craig Markwardt" <craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu> wrote in message
news:onznyj10rg.fsf@cow.physics.wisc.edu...

>

> What happens if the particular bin is empty? It looks like HISTOBINS

> returns -1 which will gum the works, right?

If an array of bins is requested, then any empty bins will be quietly ignored. If only one empty bin is requested, or if all requested bins are empty, then HISTOBIN cannot very well return any valid indices into the original array. Returning -1 and setting a COUNT variable to 0 seemed like an IDL 'standard' way of handling this situation, sort of. It is what WHERE() does. Of course I would much prefer to return an empty array...

This behaviour was the best I could come up with. I'm open to any suggestions,
Jaco
