Subject: MAX function in IDL8.0
Posted by Anne Martel on Fri, 08 Oct 2010 13:25:24 GMT
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I was happy to see that the new version of IDL includes a DIMENSION keyword for the max function but I don't understand why the max_subscript feature returns indices relative to the whole array, rather than the index in the dimension specified. A simple example to illustrate this:

If I create a 2D array q:

```
q=[[1,4,3,2,7,0],[2,4,1,3,4,1]]
```

and run

```
IDL> print,q
      1      4      3      2      7      0
      2      4      1      3      4      1

IDL> marr = max(q,ind,dim=2)
```

The returned max array is as expected:

```
IDL> print,marr
      2      4      3      3      7      1
```

The max_subscripts are

```
IDL> print,ind
  6   1      2    9     4     11
```

but what i would prefer is the subscripts in the 2nd dimension

```
IDL> print,ind/6
  1     0     0     1     0     1
```

In this example it is trivial to convert to what I want but if, for example I want to generate a time to peak map from a dynamic sequence of images , or return the most likely class from a stack of probability maps, then I still have to write a procedure to do this.
Can anyone think of some example where the way max_subscript is implemented is superior or should I just campaign for a modification in some future release?

Anne