
Subject: IDL Way to Remove Rows of an Array

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 10 May 2011 12:27:13 GMT

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Folks,

I have other things demanding my attention this morning, so I thought I would offer an IDL challenge. What is the IDL Way to remove arbitrary rows of an array?

For example, suppose I have this array:

```
array = Indgen(3,6)
```

```
print, array
```

```
0   1   2
3   4   5
6   7   8
9  10  11
12 13  14
15 16  17
```

What is the IDL Way to remove rows 2 and 5?

```
subarray = ???
```

```
print, subarray
```

```
0   1   2
6   7   8
9  10  11
15 16  17
```

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: IDL Way to Remove Rows of an Array

Posted by [Gray](#) on Tue, 17 May 2011 17:12:03 GMT

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On May 17, 12:59 pm, JDS <jdtsmith.nos...@yahoo.com> wrote:

>> JD Smith would probably say that it's faster to construct your own

>> index arrays, right? Maybe like this?

>

> Probably not in this case. Typically it's faster to roll your own index lists when the list you are constructing is smaller than the list IDL has to construct, for example if you are further sub-indexing it. The rule of thumb is to try not to make IDL do lots of work you will then promptly throw away.

>

> In this case, your list over columns, and the list IDL would create using "*" are identical. So I'd probably simply go with '*'. If you have a 'reject' list instead of 'keep' (as in David's example) a closely related but somewhat simpler/faster method is:

>

> d=size(array,/DIMENSIONS)

> array=array[*,where(~histogram(reject,MIN=0,MAX=d[1]-1),/NUL L)]

Since David's example converts the reject list to a keep list, then he could use your method and skip the steps of constructing the keep list.

Subject: Re: IDL Way to Remove Rows of an Array

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 17 May 2011 17:35:14 GMT

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Gray writes:

> Since David's example converts the reject list to a keep list, then he
> could use your method and skip the steps of constructing the keep
> list.

The thought occurred to me, too. :-)

I'll write it up.

Cheers,

David

--

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