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Subject: Re: Absurd Indexes

Posted by [meron](#) on Tue, 17 Jun 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <33A6A7D5.777F@astro.rug.nl>, Inigo Garcia <iruiz@astro.rug.nl> writes:

> Hi !

>

> I have a problem with some "sticky dimension in a matrix. The thing is

> that if you make something like:

>

> a=findgen(4,1000)

> b=fltarr(2,\*)

You probably mean:

b = a(2,\*)

>

> the array I get is an [1,1000] array, and I want an [1000] array !!!

> Does someone know any way of getting rid off that "1" dimension.

> (OK, I know the "for" loop method, but, there's no other method to do it

> ?)

>

Yeah. Use the REFORM function, i.e.

b = reform(a(2,\*))

Mati Meron

| "When you argue with a fool,

meron@cars.uchicago.edu

| chances are he is doing just the same"

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Subject: Re: Absurd Indexes

Posted by [mgs](#) on Tue, 17 Jun 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <5o6er7\$c6j@news.orst.edu>, "Hans Luh" <luh@math.utk.edu> wrote:

> Inigo Garcia wrote in article <33A6A7D5.777F@astro.rug.nl>...

>> Hi !

>>

>> I have a problem with some "sticky dimension in a matrix. The thing is

>> that if you make something like:

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>> a=findgen(4,1000)

>> b=fltarr(2,\*)

>>

>> the array I get is an [1,1000] array, and I want an [1000] array !!!

>> Does someone know any way of getting rid off that "1" dimension.



```
b=(a(2,*))(0:999)
```

In the most cases I use transpose but the second solution is very useful if I like to have only index 10 then it would be called:

```
b=(a(2,*))(10)
```

--

R.Bauer

Institut fuer Stratosphaerische Chemie (ICG-1)  
Forschungszentrum Juelich  
email: R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de

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Subject: Re: Absurd Indexes

Posted by [Hans Luh](#) on Tue, 17 Jun 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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Inigo Garcia wrote in article <33A6A7D5.777F@astro.rug.nl>...

> Hi !

>

> I have a problem with some "sticky dimension in a matrix. The thing is  
> that if you make something like:

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> a=findgen(4,1000)

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> Does someone know any way of getting rid off that "1" dimension.

> (OK, I know the "for" loop method, but, there's no other method to do it

> ?)

I am not sure that I understand your problem correctly. However, I try

```
a=findgen(4,1000)
```

```
b=fltarr(2,*)
```

on the PV-WAVE and get

```
WAVE> a=findgen(4,1000)
```

```
WAVE> b=fltarr(2,*)
```

```
b=fltarr(2,*)
      ^
% Syntax error.
```

Obviously, 'b=fltarr(2,\*)' is wrong. If we use size() to check the dimensionality of a, we can find that a is a two dimensional array.

```
WAVE> print,size(a)
      2      4      1000      4      4000
```

OK. If you want an one dimensional array, just use

```
WAVE> a=findgen(1000)
WAVE> print,size(a)
      1      1000      4      1000
```

You now have an [1000] array.

Hans.

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Subject: Re: Absurd Indexes  
Posted by [Stein Vidar Hagfors H](#) on Tue, 17 Jun 1997 07:00:00 GMT  
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Inigo Garcia wrote:

```
>
> Hi !
>
> I have a problem with some "sticky dimension in a matrix. The thing is
> that if you make something like:
>
> a=findgen(4,1000)
> b=fltarr(2,*)
>
> the array I get is an [1,1000] array, and I want an [1000] array !!!
```

I assume you meant a(2,\*), not fltarr(2,\*) :-)

b = reform(a(2,\*)) will do it. Reform removes singular dimensions.

Stein Vidar

---

Subject: Re: Absurd Indexes  
Posted by [R. Bauer](#) on Tue, 17 Jun 1997 07:00:00 GMT

Inigo Garcia wrote:

```
>  
> Hi !  
>  
> I have a problem with some "sticky dimension in a matrix. The thing is  
> that if you make something like:  
>  
> a=findgen(4,1000)  
> b=fltarr(2,*)  
>  
> the array I get is an [1,1000] array, and I want an [1000] array !!!  
> Does someone know any way of getting rid off that "1" dimension.  
> (OK, I know the "for" loop method, but, there's no other method to do it  
>
```

I don't understand what you mean

if I do:

```
a=findgen(4,1000)  
help,a  
A          FLOAT    = Array(4, 1000)
```

that's correct

if I do:

```
b=fltarr(2,*)  
      ^  
% Syntax error.
```

that's correct too.

--  
R.Bauer

Institut fuer Stratosphaerische Chemie (ICG-1)  
Forschungszentrum Juelich  
email: R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de

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Subject: Re: Absurd Indexes  
Posted by [Inigo Garcia](#) on Wed, 18 Jun 1997 07:00:00 GMT  
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Sorry, I wrote it bad . As many of you guessed, what I wanted to say was:

```
a=findgen(4,1000)
b=a(2,*)
```

Thanks for the help received.

--

\\//  
(o o)

```
+-----oOOo-(_-oOOo-----+
| Inigo Garcia Ruiz |
| Kapteyn Instituut Phone: +31-(0)50-3634083 |
| Landleven 12 Fax: +31-(0)50-363 |
| 9747 AD GRONINGEN (Netherlands) e-mail: iruiz@astro.rug.nl |
+-----+

```

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Subject: Re: Absurd Indexes

Posted by [wonko](#) on Wed, 18 Jun 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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iruiz@astro.rug.nl (Inigo Garcia) wrote:

```
> a=findgen(4,1000)
> b=fltarr(2,*)
```

You mean  $b=a(2,*)$  ?

```
> the array I get is an [1,1000] array, and I want an [1000] array !!!
> Does someone know any way of getting rid off that "1" dimension.
> (OK, I know the "for" loop method, but, there's no other method to do
> it ?)
```

Hmmm..... I wonder what this "for loop" method is.

The solution for your problem is using reform:  $b = \text{reform}( a(2,*) )$

This is often annoying, but sometimes I find it useful to have arrays like yours, eg. when dealing with 2d images. When an image has only one plane (z dimension), I can still access it as  $\text{image}(x,y,z)$  with  $z = 0$ . I sometimes use reform to add even more dimensions, like  $b = \text{reform}( a(2,*) , 1, 1000, 1, 1 )$ .

But I noticed IDL behaves different. I don't have it here at home (BTW, anyone got it to work under OS/2 Warp4 yet?), but I think  $b=a(*,2)$  would give you an 1d array.



: > b=(a(2,\*))(10)

: Wow that's cool! But I'm not sure quite how to interpret the syntax.

: why do the numbers in the second pair of parenthesis refer only to the  
: second dimension of the array?

They don't; they treat the array in the preceding parentheses as a 1-D array. Since it has dimension 1 in its first dimension, the second subscript effectively ignores it.

Peter

P.S. This kind of subscripting is very useful, esp. in expressions like  
xsize = (size(variable))(1). It's not immediately obvious that it  
is legal, but in fact it is.

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