
Subject: For loops vs. matrix operations

Posted by [Jonathan Greenberg](#) on Wed, 17 Dec 2003 21:36:57 GMT

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I know some matrix programs perform better if you do straight matrix math vs. a for-next loop -- is idl this way? E.g. is:

```
array=intarr(10000)
for i=0,(10000-1) do begin
    array[i]=array[i]+1
endfor
```

MUCH slower than:

```
array=intarr(10000)
array=array+1
```

?

I'm trying to figure out how much time I should be using rewriting some code to optimize the algorithm, which is why I'm asking (the code is more complex than above, obviously, but I did notice I could "matricize" some of the code in places)...

--j
