Subject: Selecting groups of 5 coords from a set of n (nC5)
Posted by Olivia on Fri, 03 Mar 2006 15:26:39 GMT
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Dear All,

I am trying to write a loop to perform a calculation on all possible sets of 5 coordinates from a group of n. The test case I am working on has a total number of coordinates of 8, so there will be 8c5=56 unique solutions. At the moment, I am thinking of using 5 for loops as an extension of a similar problem I worked on choosing 3 points. The 3 point code ran like this:

```
;Select groups of 3 boundary points
;for p=1, n, 1 do begin
; for k=1, n, 1 do begin
;  for m=0, n-1, 1 do begin
;   ellipse_points=[[bx[m], by[m]],$
;                   [bx[m+k], by[m+k]],$
;                   [bx[m+k+p], by[m+k+p]]]
```

On reflection, I was wondering if there might be a better way of doing this. This is probably only a fear as my code is already looking really complicated and I am worried about putting rubbish in and getting rubbish out whilst being completely unaware. If anyone has any ideas I would be really grateful to hear them. Thank you very much,

Olivia