
Subject: Is it really more efficient to work with arrays than FOR loops?

Posted by [Alvin](#) on Thu, 23 Nov 2006 13:51:50 GMT

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Hey all,

I was wondering if it is really that more efficient to work with arrays (large ones that is). For example I have the following simple code, which takes about 30 min to run:

```
FOR z=0L, 400 DO BEGIN
  FOR y=0L, 400 DO BEGIN
    FOR x=0L, 400 DO BEGIN
      fn=f(z)    ;a function of z
      gn=f(z)    ;another function of z
      IF ( f(z) * x + g(z) * y GE f(z) * g(z) ) THEN BEGIN
        blah
        blah
        blah
      ENDIF
    ENDFOR
  ENDFOR
ENDFOR
```

Now if I tried to vectorize the above, would it do me any good in saving time and possibly memory? If I say something like $f(z) \# x + g(z) \# y$, where these are all vectors, I have a feeling that I am not covering all the possible combinations as the FOR loop above. Does anyone have any ideas, or suggestions?

Thanks,
Alvin.
