
Subject: Re: Help with getting rid of a FOR loop
Posted by [pgrigis](#) on Tue, 20 May 2008 23:33:36 GMT
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Jean H wrote:

```
>> dist=sqrt((xx-xcenter)^2+(yy-ycenter)^2) ;array of radii
>>
>> mask=fltarr(imsize,imsize)-1
>>
>> FOR i=0,num-1 DO BEGIN
>>   wh=where(dist GE r[i] and dist LE r[i+1])
>>   mask[wh]=i
>> ENDFOR
>>
>> END
>>
>> I would like to find some way to get rid of the FOR loop at the end.
>> All I'm doing in that loop is going through the annuli one by one,
>> finding the pixels in that annuli, and setting the corresponding
>> pixels in mask to the correct mask value.
>>
>> Thanks for any help anyone can provide!
```

```
>> Nathan Goldbaum
```

```
>
```

```
> Hi Nathan,
```

```
>
```

```
> if your computer memory permits it, you can
```

```
> 1) reform your dist array so it is now a n_elements(dist) *
```

```
> n_elements(r) array. basically, you will copy the distances
```

```
> n_elements(r) times.
```

```
> 2) reform your r array so it is now a n_elements(dist) * n_elements(r)
> array.
```

```
> 3) shift the array from (2) by 1
```

```
> 4) do where(new_dist GT new_r and new_dist LT new_r_plus_1)
```

```
> 5) divide the returned index by n_elements(r). You will know, for each
```

```
> r, which elements satisfies your condition!
```

I guess that the original problem is not so much that for loops are slow,

but that "where" is slow. So I fear that the above strategy won't gain much speed, as now where must work on a much larger array...

Ciao,
Paolo

```
>
```

```
> Sorry if it is not too clear... that's a "quick answer before to leave"...
```

> Jean
