
Subject: Foreach philosphy

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Wed, 24 Nov 2010 20:55:13 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

So I am trying to modernize my code by replacing FOR loops with the FOREACH syntax when appropriate. That way one doesn't have to worry about counting the number of elements, the code seems more readable, and it even works for temporary arrays such as `arr[*,
3,*]`.

But is it correct that you can't use the FOREACH syntax to update an array? For example, is there way to use FOREACH for the following code snippets?

```
IDL> for i=0,N_elements(a)-1 do a[i] = b[i]
```

or even

```
IDL> for i=0,N_elements(a)-1 do a[i] = 17
```

FOREACH doesn't give access to the counting index, and since array elements are accessed by value, the following doesn't work

```
IDL> a = [1,2,3]
```

```
IDL> foreach element, a do element=17
```

```
IDL> print,a
```

```
1 2 3
```
