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Subject: Re: Code optimization

Posted by [Jeremy Bailin](#) on Wed, 16 Feb 2011 21:48:35 GMT

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On Wednesday, February 16, 2011 4:25:39 PM UTC-5, kisCA wrote:

> Jeremy, I understand your disappointment about the subscript in the  
> loops, but it's a code I get from a colleague who I suppose wrote it in  
> Fortran and then just translate it in IDL.

Yeah, it definitely has that look to it. ;-)

> Jeremy, also, could you explain me a bit more the difference between  
> [] and ().  
> cov, cs, var\_factor are variables.  
> I am sorry I just moved to idl 3 month ago from matlab and I really  
> have difficulty with "the subscript game" going on here...  
> Thanks

No problem! A Long Time Ago, IDL used () for both function calls and array subscripts. But that's not a good idea, since it leads to ambiguity not just in reading code but also in executing it (what happens if you have both a variable and function with the same name?). So [] was introduced for array subscripts. Now you can use either by default, but [] is much preferred.

If you use compile\_opt idl2, then you can \*only\* use [] (as well as a few other useful changes).

-Jeremy.

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