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Subject: Re: Gradient of two dimensional field  
Posted by [brian.jackel](#) on Wed, 19 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT  
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In article <330B44DD.647C@cdc.noaa.gov> Andy Loughe <afl@cdc.noaa.gov> writes:  
> Wilpert\_Martin wrote:

>> we want to determine the electrical field from a given potential,  
>> i.e. we have to calculate the gradient of a two dimensional array.  
>>  
>> Has anybody a idl-pvwave procedure to do this task?

> I would think that the shift function (used twice)  
> could be used to do this.

Or even just

```
dx= a(1:*,*) - a  
dy= a(*,1:*) - a
```

or

```
dx= a(1:n-1,*) - a(0:n-2,*)  
dy= a(*,1:m-1) - a(*,0:m-2)
```

if "a" has dimensions of (n,m). When doing it the first way IDL takes care of the different array sizes, with no perceptible performance hit. The second way is perhaps a bit easier to read. Is this what you (the original poster) were after?

Brian Jackel

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