
Subject: Re: Initialize new variable array with nan or -9999 values

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Thu, 20 Feb 2014 22:14:54 GMT

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On Thursday, February 20, 2014 4:33:01 PM UTC-5, Paul van Delst wrote:

> On 02/20/14 13:36, John Correia wrote:

For large arrays, there is a speed advantage to using REPLICATE or MAKE_ARRAY in which the array is initialized with the correct value, as opposed to

```
fltarr(304,336,500) - 9999
```

in which the array is first initialized with zeros, and then 9999 is subtracted from each element. Most computers should be able easily handle a 50 Mb array, so in this case the speed difference would be a fraction of a second. But it is something to keep in mind when arrays are large enough that a factor of two speed improvement matters. --Wayne
