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Subject: Re: IDL Way to have a single row/collum act on all rows/collums in an array  
Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Fri, 24 Oct 2014 15:11:25 GMT

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On Friday, October 24, 2014 10:32:43 AM UTC-4, JTMHD wrote:

```
> Hi Guys,  
>  
>  
> What I am trying to do is analogous to the following  
>  
> .....  
> timedistancearray =FINDGEN(3,3)  
>  
> timezero =timedistancearray(*,0)  
>  
> timedistance_minustimezero =FLTARR(3,3)  
>  
> FOR t=0,2 DO timedistance_minustimezero(*,t)=timedistancearray(*,t)-timezero  
> .....  
>  
>  
> The thing is in this case the array is HUGE so I don't think the FOR loop would be optimum.
```

1. Looping over 1 dimension is usually fine. The important thing is to do many operations on each iteration, which you are doing in this case.
2. You want to rewrite the equation to avoid use of the asterisk on the left hand side

FOR t=0,2 DO timedistance\_minustimezero[0,t]=timedistancearray[\* ,t]-timezero

[http://www.idlcoyote.com/code\\_tips/asterisk.html](http://www.idlcoyote.com/code_tips/asterisk.html)

3. As noted by Russell -- do you need to keep both arrays in memory? If not, then you can write it like this:

FOR t=0,2 DO timedistancearray[0,t]=timedistancearray[\* ,t]-timezero

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