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Subject: Re: Build 2D array from loops  
Posted by [greg.addr](#) on Mon, 22 Feb 2016 14:30:15 GMT  
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On Monday, February 22, 2016 at 2:08:39 PM UTC+1, Matt G wrote:

> Hi, new to IDL so please forgive if very simple request.  
>  
> I'm trying to build an array where the values stored are in two columns: one with the values of i  
in my FOR loop, and the other the output of that FOR loop. To make it more complicated, within  
my FOR loop is an IF condition that skips over bad data.  
>  
> How do I structure this code so that the array is built from the output of my loops?  
>  
> Cheers

It's often possible to work without loops in IDL. I'd do it something like this:

```
IDL> i=indgen(10)
IDL> a=i^2 ;replace with your expression
IDL> b=transpose([[i],[a]]) ;combine into two column array
IDL> b
  0   0
  1   1
  2   4
  3   9
  4  16
  5  25
  6  36
  7  49
  8  64
  9  81
```

Use the where() function to filter out your bad values, e.g.

```
IDL> q=where(a lt 50) ;keep only values where a<50
IDL> b[*,q]
  0   0
  1   1
  2   4
  3   9
  4  16
  5  25
  6  36
  7  49
```

cheers,  
Greg

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