
Subject: Re: addressing array under different names?
Posted by [David Foster](#) on Wed, 23 Jul 1997 07:00:00 GMT
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>
> Hi, I failed to find an answer to this question via dejanews or the
> manual, so here it goes.
>
> Suppose I read an array say a(10,2000). This is 10 variables at 2000
> points each. In some manipulations it is convenient to have it in
> this form, but I would also like to say
> plot,efield
> for example after having declared that efield is somehow the same as
> a(4,*). I do not want to copy it, because that
> would take precious memory... Just different names for the same thing.
>
> Is there a way to use a C-style pointer or an equivalence statement as
> in F77?

You could always say

```
PLOT, a(4,*)
```

but that of course involves copying of data. As far as I know there is no way to accomplish the equivalent of Fortran EQUIVALENCE or C UNION statements; this is something that I have always wanted in IDL. There may be some issues related to memory allocation and object-oriented design that those more learned in such things may be able to shed some light on.

Dave

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"I have this theory that if we're told we're bad,
then that's the only idea we'll ever have.
But maybe if we are surrounded in beauty,
someday we will become what we see." - Jewel Kilcher
