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Subject: Dos and Donts

Posted by

on Wed, 27 Sep 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Hi there!

I'm preparing a little talk about efficient programming in IDL. From the help files and from my own experience I found many hints about 'what to do and not to do' to speed up code in IDL. The most things I listed so far are about array operations and data arrangement, avoiding loops etc. Taking an intensive look into the help system I found some little tricks to improve speed, e.g. using rotation for image rotation by 90 deg rather than rot(...,90). Up to now I didn't know that there is a difference at all.

I am sure there are many more odds and ends to improve IDL code. Does anyone out there can give me a hint where to find more of those tricks? Links, recommendation of a book, or just some direct tips would be very helpfull.

Thank you an advance and best greetings from Marburg,  
Hans Joerg Brinksmeyer

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H.J.Brinksmeyer - Physics Department  
University of Marburg, Germany

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Subject: Re: Dos and Donts

Posted by [pit](#) on Tue, 03 Oct 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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brinks <[h.j.brinksmeyer@physik.uni-marburg.de](mailto:h.j.brinksmeyer@physik.uni-marburg.de)> writes:

```
>> The argument a[0:63, 0:63] is passed to TEMPORARY by value, and
>> therefore cannot be modified. However the following method *does* save
>> memory:
```

```
>>
```

```
>> a = dist(256)
```

```
>> b = (temporary(a))[0:63, 0:63]
```

```
>> help, a, b
```

```
>> A      UNDEFINED = <Undefined>
```

```
>> B      FLOAT    = Array[64, 64]
```

```
>
```

```
> Finally, that's something new, I didn't know before!!!
```

```
> Thank you very much :-)
```

But exactly as one should expect.

Concerning temporary:

Be carefull in tight memory situations.

If you \*do\* run out of memory in a

  a = f(temporary(a))

statement, then a is lost as in the example above!

Peter

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