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Subject: Cyclic array interfaces

Posted by [Jonathan Greenberg](#) on Tue, 13 Jul 2004 00:42:56 GMT

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A few months back I was asking about efficient ways of interacting with images where I can perform spatial transforms (e.g. Applying a 5 x 5 filter of some sort to the image), and I got lots of good information back, and one idea in particular intrigued me: working with an array in a cyclic fashion. My question is: is replacing a single "line" of an N x M array with a 1 x M vector using something like:

```
A=[[1,2,3],[4,5,6]]
```

```
B=[7,8,9]
```

```
A[* ,1]=B
```

... An efficient method of replacing data in an array? Or does A get completely rewritten and takes as much time as:

```
C=[[10,11,12],[13,14,15]]
```

```
A=C
```

(e.g. Does IDL actually rewrite the entire array, regardless of how many elements are being changed, or does it only change the particular elements and hence the first example should be about twice as fast as the second)?

If example #1 is faster than #2, then I can implement a cyclical array approach, where if I want to work with 5 lines of an image at a time, the "line index" the first iteration would be:

```
0,1,2,3,4
```

And the second iteration (as I shift down one line):

```
5,1,2,3,4 (so I'm overwriting only one line of data at a time).
```

Thoughts?

--j

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