
Subject: initializing arrays

Posted by [johnadams_1980](#) on Fri, 09 Jun 2006 17:44:35 GMT

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Hi All,

How do you initialize an array to a specific value without using a for loop?

Thanks,
KL

Subject: Re: initializing arrays

Posted by [biophys](#) on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 22:10:09 GMT

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On a 1GB 3.0GHZ linux machine, the 3rd method is much faster if the array size is small(eg smaller than `fltarr(300,300)`). otherwise, the other two methods are faster(about twice as fast). The performance of `replicate` and `make_array` are always close. I am not sure if it holds for other platforms.-bp

Marshall Perrin wrote:

> Ben Tupper <btupper@bigelow.org> wrote:

>> johnadams_1980@yahoo.com wrote:

>>> Hi All,

>>>

>>> How do you initialize an array to a specific value without using a for

>>> loop?

>>>

>>> Thanks,

>>> KL

>>>

>> You have choices...

>>

>> `arr = REPLICATE(7.0, [32,5])`

>>

>> `arr = MAKE_ARRAY([32,5], VALUE = 7.0)`

>>

>> `arr = FLTARR(32,5) + 7.0`

>

> And somewhat oddly, all three of these seem to be about equal in

> execution speed for me (tested on a Mac G4 creating a [1000,10000]

> array of floats filled with 7s). I would've predicted the third one

> to be substantially slower due to all those additions, but it

> doesn't seem to be. Maybe the IDL compiler is doing something clever

> under the hood? (Which is good news, anyway, since that's the one I use

> most often myself!)
>
> - Marshall
