

---

Subject: Re: Help with getting rid of a FOR loop  
Posted by [Jean H.](#) on Tue, 20 May 2008 22:55:46 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

```
> dist=sqrt((xx-xcenter)^2+(yy-ycenter)^2) ;array of radii
>
> mask=fltarr(imsize,imsize)-1
>
> FOR i=0,num-1 DO BEGIN
>   wh=where(dist GE r[i] and dist LE r[i+1])
>   mask[wh]=i
> ENDFOR
>
> END
>
> I would like to find some way to get rid of the FOR loop at the end.
> All I'm doing in that loop is going through the annuli one by one,
> finding the pixels in that annuli, and setting the corresponding
> pixels in mask to the correct mask value.
>
> Thanks for any help anyone can provide!
>
> Nathan Goldbaum
```

Hi Nathan,

if your computer memory permits it, you can

- 1) reform your dist array so it is now a `n_elements(dist) * n_elements(r)` array. basically, you will copy the distances `n_elements(r)` times.
- 2) reform your r array so it is now a `n_elements(dist) * n_elements(r)` array.
- 3) shift the array from (2) by 1
- 4) do `where(new_dist GT new_r and new_dist LT new_r_plus_1)`
- 5) divide the returned index by `n_elements(r)`. You will know, for each r, which elements satisfies your condition!

Sorry if it is not too clear... that's a "quick answer before to leave"...

Jean

---

Subject: Re: Help with getting rid of a FOR loop  
Posted by [pgrigis](#) on Tue, 20 May 2008 23:20:01 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

You may try the following strategy:

- compute the distance from Sun center for each pixel, store in r

- histogram the array r from 0 to sunradius in "num" bins
- caveat: this will give 1dim array indices. If you need back 2 dim array (probably not) use array\_indices

Not sure if it going to be faster, but is worth a try.

Cheers,

Paolo

nathan12343 wrote:

```
> Hi, all
>
> Recently, I've been going through some old code in an effort to make
> it run a bit faster. My primary tool in this adventure has been the
> elimination of unnecessary FOR loops - all this code was written
> before I read David Fanning's article on 'The IDL Way'.
>
> This particular piece of code is used to approximate the center to
> limb variation in full-disk solar images. It identifies pixels that
> are on the solar disk and assigns them a value according to whether
> they're in between two radii given in a vector, r. This defines a set
> of annuli which cover the solar disk, the number of which is given by
> num. This information is stored in the mask array and returned.
> Here's the actual code:
>
> PRO generate_annuli,radius,xcenter,ycenter,num,mask
>
> ;radius - solar radius
> ;xcenter - x coord of solar disk center
> ;ycenter - y coord of solar disk center
> ;num - number of annuli for CLV approximation
> ;mask - the output mask
>
> ; No integer overflows
> compile_opt IDL2
>
> imsize=2048L                      ;images are 2048X2048
> mu=reverse(findgen(num+1))/(num) ;Generates values for mu
> r=radius*sqrt(1-mu^2)              ;Inner radii for all the
> annuli
>
> xx=rebin(findgen(imsize),imsize,imsize) ;array of x indices
> yy=transpose(xx)                  ;array of y indices
>
> dist=sqrt((xx-xcenter)^2+(yy-ycenter)^2) ;array of radii
>
```

> mask=fltarr(imsz,imsz)-1  
>  
> FOR i=0,num-1 DO BEGIN  
> wh=where(dist GE r[i] and dist LE r[i+1])  
> mask[wh]=i  
> ENDFOR  
>  
> END  
>  
> I would like to find some way to get rid of the FOR loop at the end.  
> All I'm doing in that loop is going through the annuli one by one,  
> finding the pixels in that annuli, and setting the corresponding  
> pixels in mask to the correct mask value.  
>  
> Thanks for any help anyone can provide!  
>  
> Nathan Goldbaum

---

---

Subject: Re: Help with getting rid of a FOR loop  
Posted by [nathan12343](#) on Tue, 20 May 2008 23:24:37 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On May 20, 4:55 pm, Jean H <jghas...@DELTHIS.ucalgary.ANDTHIS.ca>  
wrote:

> Hi Nathan,  
>  
> if your computer memory permits it, you can  
> 1) reform your dist array so it is now a n\_elements(dist) \*  
> n\_elements(r) array. basically, you will copy the distances  
> n\_elements(r) times.  
> 2) reform your r array so it is now a n\_elements(dist) \* n\_elements(r)  
> array.  
> 3) shift the array from (2) by 1  
> 4) do where(new\_dist GT new\_r and new\_dist LT new\_r\_plus\_1)  
> 5) divide the returned index by n\_elements(r). You will know, for each  
> r, which elements satisfies your condition!  
>  
> Sorry if it is not too clear... that's a "quick answer before to leave"..  
> Jean

Just what I was looking for. I'll write some code later - hope  
there's enough memory.

Much appreciated!

---

Subject: Re: Help with getting rid of a FOR loop  
Posted by [pgrigis](#) on Tue, 20 May 2008 23:33:36 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Jean H wrote:

```
>> dist=sqrt((xx-xcenter)^2+(yy-ycenter)^2) ;array of radii
>>
>> mask=fltarr(imsize,imsize)-1
>>
>> FOR i=0,num-1 DO BEGIN
>>   wh=where(dist GE r[i] and dist LE r[i+1])
>>   mask[wh]=i
>> ENDFOR
>>
>> END
>>
>> I would like to find some way to get rid of the FOR loop at the end.
>> All I'm doing in that loop is going through the annuli one by one,
>> finding the pixels in that annuli, and setting the corresponding
>> pixels in mask to the correct mask value.
```

```
>>
>> Thanks for any help anyone can provide!
```

```
>>
>> Nathan Goldbaum
```

```
>
> Hi Nathan,
>
> if your computer memory permits it, you can
> 1) reform your dist array so it is now a n_elements(dist) *
> n_elements(r) array. basically, you will copy the distances
> n_elements(r) times.
> 2) reform your r array so it is now a n_elements(dist) * n_elements(r)
> array.
> 3) shift the array from (2) by 1
> 4) do where(new_dist GT new_r and new_dist LT new_r_plus_1)
> 5) divide the returned index by n_elements(r). You will know, for each
> r, which elements satisfies your condition!
```

I guess that the original problem is not so much that for loops are slow,  
but that "where" is slow. So I fear that the above strategy won't gain much speed, as now where must work on a much larger array...

Ciao,  
Paolo

```
>
> Sorry if it is not too clear... that's a "quick answer before to leave"...
> Jean
```

---

---

Subject: Re: Help with getting rid of a FOR loop  
Posted by [nathan12343](#) on Tue, 20 May 2008 23:48:25 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On May 20, 5:33 pm, pgri...@gmail.com wrote:

> Jean H wrote:

>>> dist=sqrt((xx-xcenter)^2+(yy-ycenter)^2) ;array of radii

>

>>> mask=fltarr(imsize,imsize)-1

>

>>> FOR i=0,num-1 DO BEGIN

>>> wh=where(dist GE r[i] and dist LE r[i+1])

>>> mask[wh]=i

>>> ENDFOR

>

>>> END

>

>>> I would like to find some way to get rid of the FOR loop at the end.

>>> All I'm doing in that loop is going through the annuli one by one,

>>> finding the pixels in that annuli, and setting the corresponding

>>> pixels in mask to the correct mask value.

>

>>> Thanks for any help anyone can provide!

>

>>> Nathan Goldbaum

>

>> Hi Nathan,

>

>> if your computer memory permits it, you can

>> 1) reform your dist array so it is now a n\_elements(dist) \*

>> n\_elements(r) array. basically, you will copy the distances

>> n\_elements(r) times.

>> 2) reform your r array so it is now a n\_elements(dist) \* n\_elements(r)

>> array.

>> 3) shift the array from (2) by 1

>> 4) do where(new\_dist GT new\_r and new\_dist LT new\_r\_plus\_1)

>> 5) divide the returned index by n\_elements(r). You will know, for each

>> r, which elements satisfies your condition!

>

> I guess that the original problem is not so much that for loops are

> slow,

> but that "where" is slow. So I fear that the above strategy won't gain

> much speed, as now where must work on a much larger array...

>

> Ciao,

> Paolo

>

>

>

>

>> Sorry if it is not too clear... that's a "quick answer before to leave"...

>> Jean

>

>

Will histogram work with unevenly spaced bins?

---

---

Subject: Re: Help with getting rid of a FOR loop

Posted by [nathan12343](#) on Wed, 21 May 2008 02:36:26 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On May 20, 5:48 pm, nathan12343 <nathan12...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On May 20, 5:33 pm, pgri...@gmail.com wrote:

>

>

>

>> Jean H wrote:

>>>> dist=sqrt((xx-xcenter)^2+(yy-ycenter)^2) ;array of radii

>

>>>> mask=fltarr(imsz,imsz)-1

>

>>>> FOR i=0,num-1 DO BEGIN

>>>>   wh=where(dist GE r[i] and dist LE r[i+1])

>>>>   mask[wh]=i

>>>> ENDFOR

>

>>>> END

>

>>>> I would like to find some way to get rid of the FOR loop at the end.

>>>> All I'm doing in that loop is going through the annuli one by one,

>>>> finding the pixels in that annuli, and setting the corresponding

>>>> pixels in mask to the correct mask value.

>

>>>> Thanks for any help anyone can provide!

>

>>>> Nathan Goldbaum

>

>>> Hi Nathan,

>

>>> if your computer memory permits it, you can

>>> 1) reform your dist array so it is now a n\_elements(dist) \*

>>> n\_elements(r) array. basically, you will copy the distances

>>> n\_elements(r) times.

>>> 2) reform your r array so it is now a n\_elements(dist) \* n\_elements(r)

>>> array.

>>> 3) shift the array from (2) by 1

>>> 4) do where(new\_dist GT new\_r and new\_dist LT new\_r\_plus\_1)

```
>>> 5) divide the returned index by n_elements(r). You will know, for each
>>> r, which elements satisfies your condition!
>
>> I guess that the original problem is not so much that for loops are
>> slow,
>> but that "where" is slow. So I fear that the above strategy won't gain
>> much speed, as now where must work on a much larger array...
>
>> Ciao,
>> Paolo
>
>>> Sorry if it is not too clear... that's a "quick answer before to leave"...
>>> Jean
>
> Will histogram work with unevenly spaced bins?
```

Histogram does work for irregular binsizes if you use VALUE\_LOCATE, I think I'll be able to do this using histogram.

---

---

Subject: Re: Help with getting rid of a FOR loop  
Posted by [nathan12343](#) on Wed, 21 May 2008 03:02:48 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

```
On May 20, 8:36 pm, nathan12343 <nathan12...@gmail.com> wrote:
> On May 20, 5:48 pm, nathan12343 <nathan12...@gmail.com> wrote:
>
>
>
>> On May 20, 5:33 pm, pgri...@gmail.com wrote:
>
>>> Jean H wrote:
>>>> > dist=sqrt((xx-xcenter)^2+(yy-ycenter)^2) ;array of radii
>
>>>> > mask=fltarr(imsize,imsize)-1
>
>>>> > FOR i=0,num-1 DO BEGIN
>>>> >   wh=where(dist GE r[i] and dist LE r[i+1])
>>>> >   mask[wh]=i
>>>> > ENDFOR
>
>>>> > END
>
>>>> > I would like to find some way to get rid of the FOR loop at the end.
>>>> > All I'm doing in that loop is going through the annuli one by one,
>>>> > finding the pixels in that annuli, and setting the corresponding
>>>> > pixels in mask to the correct mask value.
>
```

```

>>>> > Thanks for any help anyone can provide!
>
>>>> > Nathan Goldbaum
>
>>>> Hi Nathan,
>
>>>> if your computer memory permits it, you can
>>>> 1) reform your dist array so it is now a n_elements(dist) *
>>>> n_elements(r) array. basically, you will copy the distances
>>>> n_elements(r) times.
>>>> 2) reform your r array so it is now a n_elements(dist) * n_elements(r)
>>>> array.
>>>> 3) shift the array from (2) by 1
>>>> 4) do where(new_dist GT new_r and new_dist LT new_r_plus_1)
>>>> 5) divide the returned index by n_elements(r). You will know, for each
>>>> r, which elements satisfies your condition!
>
>>> I guess that the original problem is not so much that for loops are
>>> slow,
>>> but that "where" is slow. So I fear that the above strategy won't gain
>>> much speed, as now where must work on a much larger array...
>
>>> Ciao,
>>> Paolo
>
>>>> Sorry if it is not too clear... that's a "quick answer before to leave"...
>>>> Jean
>
>> Will histogram work with unevenly spaced bins?
>
> Histogram does work for irregular binsizes if you use VALUE_LOCATE, I
> think I'll be able to do this using histogram.

```

Thanks for the histogram suggestion!

This code is about 15 times faster than it was before, I'm glad I learned about histogram :)

-Nathan