

---

Subject: Lag and A\_CORRELATE/C\_CORRELATE  
Posted by [Max](#) on Mon, 06 Jul 2009 22:12:09 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Please excuse the incredibly uninformed nature of this post; I have no training in IDL, scientific programming, or really programming at all. I'm asking on behalf of a friend who is, I think, too stubborn to do so herself (she has received some training, but by entirely unmotivated and unhelpful grad students who are, it seems, useless). Here's the situation:

to be able to find the auto-correlation and cross-correlation functions. both A\_CORRELATE and C\_CORRELATE involve the lag parameter, the function and nature of which we cannot readily identify. The final result of this work is to be a plot (I believe) of correlations, or possibly a function serving the same purpose (although, it strikes me that with a discrete number of data points, the plot and the function would be equally useful). I've searched the internet, but not knowing the first thing about the language has really hampered this.

We would both be very grateful if someone could help clear up these questions: firstly, what does lag measure? Secondly, how does the lag parameter affect the output of the A\_CORRELATE and C\_CORRELATE functions? Thirdly, what can my friend do to get this to work?

One idea I've had from searching the internet include creating an

C\_CORRELATE with something like "lag = [-F, F]". Is this at least on the right track?

Any help at all would be greatly appreciated. Thanks.

---