Arrays

By Droids Robotics
Lesson Objectives

1. Build upon skills from the Variables lesson in Intermediate
2. Learn how to read/write to arrays
3. Learn about the Array Operations block
4. Learn to use the loop count in a loop

Prerequisites: Data Wires, Loops, Variables
Why Use Arrays?

1. Simplify programs by storing multiple related values in a single variable

2. Can be used with loops to make compact and useful programs

3. Are useful for making a custom calibration program (see NXT Light Sensor in EV3 on our contributed lessons tab)
What is an array?

An array is a variable that holds multiple values.

There are two types of arrays:

- Numeric Array (Holds a set of numbers ... 1, 2, 3, 10, 55)
- Logic Array (Holds a set of logic ... True, True, False)

They can be used as either Inputs or Outputs so you can either:

- Write – put a value(s) into the array
- Read – get the value(s) from the array out
Array Blocks: Quick Guide

Modes

Change to Array mode

Logic Array

Numeric Array

Key

Write (Inputs) have 2 bumps up

Read (Outputs) have 2 bumps down

Naming

Click add variable

Logic Array

Numeric Array

Quiz

Read logic array

Write logic array

Read numeric array

Write numeric array

Identify if the variables are Inputs/Outputs and if they are Numeric/Logic
Each value in an array is assigned an index

The first value would be at index 0

Logic arrays would store True/False instead of numbers

To add a value to an array click the plus +

This adds an entry at the next index value (i.e. index 3)
This block is used to read or write to Logic or Numeric arrays

Different modes:
- Append: Add a new entry after the last array index
- Read at index: Reads the value at a certain index
- Write at Index: Write a new value to a certain array index
- Length: How many entries are in the array

Both write and append output an array → you will need to write this array back to the variable if you wish to update the stored array (see write/append slides)
How do you use Arrays (Reading)?

Array operation block
Display the value on the screen

Read index 1 in the arrays
Above code will display 10
Below code will display 0 for false

Use “read at index” mode
How do you use Arrays (Writing)?

Read the array you want to write to. Use array operations to write a value to a certain index. Write the output back to the array.

This will write 700 to array at index 4.

This will write False to array at index 4.
The loop count outputs the amount of times the blocks inside the loop have played.

This is useful to create a program that runs different code every time it goes in the loop.

It is also useful for computing on each item of an array.
Note: Append vs. Write

- Append adds entries to the end of an array (i.e. creates a new index value)
- Write overwrites the entry at the chosen index
- This code produces an array with 8 entries (three 0’s followed by 5 light readings)
- This code produces an array with 5 entries (just 5 light readings)
Make a program that displays all the entries of an array. Display each index on a different line. You can use only one display block.

Tips: You will need to use loops, loop count, array block, array operations
Create/Write the display array

Read how many values are in the array

Use array operations to read each index for the loop count

Display the value on a different line for each loop count

Wait until you bump the button to exit

End after all the indexes have been displayed
Challenge 2

Make a program that adds up all the entries of an array. Display the sum.

Tips: You will need to use loops, loop count, array block, array operations
Challenge 2 Solution

1. Read how many values are in the array.
2. Read the index based on the loop count.
3. Add the array value to the sum of the past values.
4. Display the result to the screen.

Create the display array.
Here are some fun things to try:

1. Make a program to compute the average value in an array
2. Make a program that always saves the last 4 light sensor readings in an array
3. Create an array that stores calibration values for each sensor port
This tutorial was written by Sanjay Seshan and Arvind Seshan from Droids Robotics

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