
Subject: Shortcut needed

Posted by [williams](#) on Sat, 15 Nov 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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Hi fellow IDL-users,

I have a program which runs slower than I like, and wonder if someone could help me speed it up a bit.

My data is an array of structures, call it 'a'. One element of the structure, call it 'n' is an integer, another is a quantity which I want to add up, call it 'x'.

There are about 100000 elements in this array. The integer n, marks data as being of a certain type. I want to make a new array, call it 'y', which has as its nth element the sum of all the x's which have a n-value of n. I currently do this as follows,

```
for n=0, n_max do begin
  y[n] = total( a[where(a.n eq n)].x )
endfor
```

The trouble is that the loop is slow, as for loops always are. Does anyone out there know a better way to do this kind of sorting?

Thanks,
Daniel Williams

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