In article <3602D89B.15BF8C2D@ssec.wisc.edu>, Liam Gumley
<Liam.Gumley@ssec.wisc.edu> wrote:

> Kenneth P. Bowman wrote:
>> IDL has a pretty good SORT routine, but no SEARCH routine that I have been
>> able to find (that is, a procedure to find the index of the closest/first
>> match in an ordered list). Once again, this can be done with loops, but
>> such an implementation would almost certainly be much slower than a
>> built-in function. Since searching and sorting are such basic operations,
>> does anyone know why there is no SEARCH in IDL?
>
> How about the MIN function, e.g.
>
> array = findgen(100)
> value = 37.2
> result = min(abs(value - array), location)
> help, location

Again, I'm sure this is an order-N operation, as MIN has to check every
element, just like WHERE. It has no knowledge that the list is ordered.

Ken

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