
Subject: Re: Search routines

Posted by [landsman](#) on Fri, 18 Sep 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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>

> I realize that WHERE will do the job, but at very low efficiency. WHERE
> makes no assumptions about the list being ordered. It seems to me it has
> to check every element of the array, requiring N steps for an N-element
> array. This is even worse than a linear search of an ordered list, which
> would require an average of N/2 steps. A simple bisection search would be
> LOG2(N) on average, which is, of course, very advantageous for large N.
>

The procedure tabinv.pro in <http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/pub/ftp/math>

will perform a vectorized binary search of a monotonic array.

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