Subject: Re: Search routines
Posted by bowman on Fri, 18 Sep 1998 07:00:00 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

In article <MPG.106c1a47e9769edd9896bd@news.frii.com>, davidf@dfanning.com (David Fanning) wrote:

> I thought that was the point of the WHERE function. :-)

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.

In article <36027091.59F@plato.sr.unh.edu>, Alexander Proussevitch <alexp@plato.sr.unh.edu> wrote:

> Of course, there is such a routine. Check
>
> UNIQ !!!! It does any kind of search for you.

UNIQ seems to suffer from the same problem as WHERE, and I'm not sure what use it is with floating point numbers.

Still looking ... ;-)

Ken

--
Dr. Kenneth P. Bowman, Professor 409-862-4060
Department of Meteorology 409-862-4466 fax
Texas A&M University bowmanATcsrp.tamu.edu
College Station, TX 77843-3150 Replace AT with @