
Subject: Re: Zero vector detection in IDL

Posted by [Pavel Romashkin](#) on Mon, 28 Jun 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Using WHERE does search through the entire array. I tried it: on my Power Mac I could only get a FINDGEN(10,500,000) in memory, and locating randomly incerted zeros in it using WHERE took 1.6 s. Unless your arrays are much larger, I'd stick with WHERE for simplicity sake. Saves about 8 lines of code, which I am not sure would speeds things up much: what if your non-zero is at the end? You will loose an hour to loop through 10,500,000 elements.

Good luck,
Pavel

Frank Morgan wrote:

- > Given a big byte or integer array (actually a 1-D vector), is there a
 - > fast IDL way to check whether any non-zero elements exist?
 - >
 - > Something like "if (total(x) EQ 0)..." or a where() construct will work,
 - > but scans the whole vector when the first non-zero element is enough to
 - > answer the question. max(x) is even worse.
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