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Subject: Re: matching fields in ascii or text files.

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Sat, 04 Aug 2001 00:36:37 GMT

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patrick@es.ucsc.edu (Patrick McEnaney) writes:

> I'm writing an idl gui script to cycle through fairly long files of  
> data that are collected from a ctd and compare them with chlorophyll  
> measurements from insitu sampling. I want to select the data from a  
> specific depth for chlorophyll and and write all values for that  
> depth in another file. Just putting the data into excel files would be  
> very cumbersome because the data are collected over a month long  
> cruise and there are alot of measurements. Ultimately I'll use the  
> script whenever I need to compare fields from cruise data. Can you  
> suggest a way to construct such a matching routine in idl?

The solution is even easier in that case.

```
wh = where(depth_list EQ depth)
```

Now WH are the indices of depths in DEPTH\_LIST which have the same depth as DEPTH. Wow, I hope that was intelligible.

The problem with this approach is that if you want to select out many many DEPTHS in a loop, you will start to slow down because you are essentially doing an N^2 operation (ie, searching the entire DEPTH\_LIST every time). In that case you may care to revert to something else.

Craig

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Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response  
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