
Subject: Re: Intersection of 2 sets--Beginner IDL question
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 17 Oct 2001 13:58:53 GMT
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John-David Smith (jdsmith@astro.cornell.edu) writes:

> It's amazing how much recycled information flows through the newsgroup, if you
> watch it long enough. I remember just like it was 4 years ago the detailed
> discussions with which we whiled away our days, concerning value-based
> intersection vs index-based intersection, order N vs. unknown order operations,
> etc.
>
> I do, however, still cringe when I read on that page of yours:
>
> "These routines are faster than previously published functions, e.g. Contain..."
>
> since I whipped up contain() to prevent the problem of an operation scaling out
> of control on sparse data sets (as set_intersection does -- a feature they warn
> you of). You can read all about a variety of intersection methods if you like:
>
> <http://groups.google.com/groups?selm=38CBF8B6.5BF0AB50%40astro.cornell.edu>
>
> In a classic example posed by Mark Fardal, you are matching up social security
> numbers in two lists containing age and income. The set_intersection style
> solution fails miserably here, and to a lesser degree for any arrays which are
> somewhat sparse (where *somewhat* seems to be about 1 in 10, depending on lots
> of factors).
>
> Ah, the glory days.

Alright, alright. I'm spending the day updating my web
page. :-)

Cheers,

David

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