Subject: Re: Intersection of 2 sets--Beginner IDL question Posted by David Fanning on Wed, 17 Oct 2001 13:58:53 GMT

View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

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%40ast ro.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
David W. Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: david@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155
```