
Subject: Re: Array element deletion

Posted by [jjbezair](#) on Fri, 12 Sep 2003 13:27:48 GMT

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In article <bjsh0u\$q77\$1@news.ox.ac.uk>,

Edd Edmondson <eddedmondson@hotmail.com> wrote:

> Supposing I have a big array and I also have an array containing indices
> of unwanted elements. Is there a neat way of removing those elements from
> the array?

>

> Attempts using WHERE() have failed for me* and currently I'm looping
> through the array of indices and deleting them one at a time - which is
> fine when I've only got 20 or 30 of them but I doubt it'll scale well.

>

>

> * - I tried to make a list of indices that I wanted to keep using
> WHERE(indgen(x) ne unwanted) but that only produces the first
> n_elements(unwanted) of the correct indices.

>

> --

> Edd

I'm sure one or more of the gurus here will have a faster solution that
uses histogram, but I've always used index masks for this sort of thing

```
indexMask = lonarr(n_elements(bigArray))
```

```
indexMask(unwanted) = 1
```

```
wanted = where(indexMask == 0)
```

```
smallArray = bigArray(wanted)
```

of course you should check that where returns a nonzero array, etc., and
this method uses 4 times the memory of the original array, but memory is
cheap these days, and these 4 lines of code are quick to type...

I'm curious to see what more efficient techniques other people here use.

regards,
Jeff

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