
Subject: Re: Removing repeating array values
Posted by [savoie](#) on Tue, 28 Mar 2006 20:43:00 GMT
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David Fanning <davidf@dfanning.com> writes:

```
> Jonathan Wolfe writes:
>
>> Is there an easier way than a for loop to remove repeating values
>> within an array? For example, I have two arrays and am trying to match
>> the closest value from one with the other using a where() statement.
>> When the where statement is returned, I have multiple instances of the
>> same value; however, I just want to keep one of these. A for loop
>> works, but computing speed is slow, I'm running on an old 700MHz PIII.
>> Do you know of a faster way? Thanks for the help!
>
> Removing elements from an array is tailor-made for
> the HISTOGRAM function. See the Histogram Tutorial for
> an example:
>
> http://www.dfanning.com/tips/histogram_tutorial.html
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
```

I responded privately at first, but thought other people might want this too.

Is UNIQ what you're looking for?
from the manual...

; Create an array:

```
array = [1, 2, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 6, 5]
```

; Variable B holds an array containing the sorted, unique values in

; array:

```
b = array[UNIQ(array, SORT(array))]
```

```
PRINT, b
```

IDL prints

```
1  2  3  4  5  6
```

It might be faster than learning histogram :)

Just a thought.

Matt

--

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