On Thu, 13 Apr 2006 13:31:42 -0700, Wayne Landsman wrote:

> I was asked an apparently simple question -- what is the most efficient
> way in IDL to determine if a particular scalar value is in an array.
[..]
> A more efficent (if less transparent) method might be
>
> found = 1 - array_equal(array EQ value, 0)
>
> where (array EQ value) will contain all zeros if there is no match.
> The ARRAY_EQUAL(x,0) function returns a value of zero as soon as it
> finds a non-zero value in x.   So we are part way there but (array EQ
> value) still requires testing every value of "array".
>
> So what we need is a new ARRAY_OR(x,y) function which returns 1 as
> soon as it finds any match between X and Y.   Or am I missing another
> method?   --Wayne

Just negate your ARRAY_EQUAL. I use this all the time:

 in_array=~array_equal(array NE value,1b)

In English that's "is it not everywhere not equal to the value". As soon
as it comes across (array NE value)=0 (i.e. a place where it's "not not
equal") it will return.

JD