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Subject: Re: quickly totaling sections of an array  
Posted by [Brian Larsen](#) on Tue, 13 Feb 2007 17:18:34 GMT  
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While I almost hate to say it (as I have just learned how to use this recently) this could be a job for histogram and reverse\_indices.  
[http://www.dfanning.com/tips/histogram\\_tutorial.html](http://www.dfanning.com/tips/histogram_tutorial.html)

It seems to me that one way to do this is to:

- generate the mask [0,0,2,1,3,4,5,2,1,5,7,1,1,1] (same mask values stuff)
- use histogram on the mask with binsize 1 which will then use put each mask value in its own bin, from there the reverse\_indices thing is the trick.

I have experimented with histogram() and found that if you are pulling one or two sets out of an array, then where() is faster, pulling three or so different sets out then where() and histogram() are comparable, and beyond that histogram() is significantly faster.

In a previous post is a touch of code to make the reverse\_indices part easier:

[http://groups.google.com/group/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/browse\\_thread/thread/9ccdf9fab564f78/93e52a4ba6173817#93e52a4ba6173817](http://groups.google.com/group/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/browse_thread/thread/9ccdf9fab564f78/93e52a4ba6173817#93e52a4ba6173817)

but it uses idl pointer stuff which always confuses the hell out of me (this isn't C after all) so I wrote this one, and the example in the doc header could be close to your problem, if I understand correctly.

```
;+
; NAME:
; reverse_indices
;
;
; PURPOSE:
; use histogram to pull out regions using the reverse_indices keyword
;
;
; INPUTS:
; histo - a histogram from the histogram() function
; ri - the histogram() reverse_indices keyword output
;
;
; OPTIONAL INPUTS:
```

```

; bin - the bin you want the indices for
;
;
;
; KEYWORD PARAMETERS:
; (all must be specified to use value)
; OMIN - omin keyword output from histogram()
; OMAX - omax keyword output from histogram()
; VALUE - specify a bin by value instead of number
;
;
;
; OUTPUTS:
; out - indices in that bin of a histogram
;
;
;
; OPTIONAL OUTPUTS:
; none
;
;
;
; COMMON BLOCKS:
; none
;
;
;
; SIDE EFFECTS:
; none
;
;
;
; RESTRICTIONS:
; none
;
;
;
; EXAMPLE:
; IDL> data=fix(randomu(101,25)*12)
; IDL> h=histogram(data, OMIN=omin, OMAX=omax, REVERSE_INDICES=ri,
binsize=2, /nan)
; IDL> print, data[sort(data)]
;    0    0    0    1    1    1    1
2    3    3    4    4    4    4    4
;    5    6    7    9   10   10   11   11
11   11
; IDL> print, data[reverse_indices(h, ri, 2)]
;    5    4    4    4    4    4
; IDL> print, data[reverse_indices(h, ri, value=3.5 , OMIN=omin,
OMAX=omax)]
;    2    3    3
;
;
;
; MODIFICATION HISTORY:

```

```

;
;
;   Mon Feb 12 15:14:46 2007, Brian Larsen
;   <larsen@ssel.montana.edu>
;
;   written and tested
;
;
;-
FUNCTION reverse_indices, histo, ri, bin, OMIN=omin, OMAX=omax,
VALUE=value

..... error checking .....
,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
IF N_ELEMENTS(histo) EQ 0 THEN $
  message, /ioerror, 'NULL histogram input'

IF N_ELEMENTS(ri) EQ 0 THEN $
  message, /ioerror, 'NULL REVERSE INDICES input'

IF N_ELEMENTS(bin) EQ 0 AND N_ELEMENTS(value) EQ 0 THEN $
  message, /ioerror, 'Must either specify bin or value'

IF N_ELEMENTS(value) NE 0 AND (N_ELEMENTS(omax) EQ 0 OR
N_ELEMENTS(omin) EQ 0) THEN $
  message, /ioerror, 'Specifying value requires specifying omax and
omin'
..... things are ok .....
,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
IF N_ELEMENTS(value) NE 0 THEN BEGIN
  ;; find which bin has 4 in it
  binsize = (omin+omax)/(N_ELEMENTS(histo)-1)
  bin = value/binsize
ENDIF
IF bin GE N_ELEMENTS(histo) THEN $
  message, /ioerror, 'Bin out of range, [0,N_ELEMENTS(histo)-1]
out = ri[ri[bin]:ri[bin+1]-1]
RETURN, out

END

```

Brian

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Brian A. Larsen  
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On Feb 13, 8:25 am, "Conor" <cmanc...@gmail.com> wrote:  
> Hmm... I found sample code here:[http://www.dfanning.com/code\\_tips/](http://www.dfanning.com/code_tips/drizzling.html)  
> drizzling.html  
> that claims to do the job, but that doesn't work. The first problem  
> is that n\_ind isn't defined. I set that to n\_elements(h1)+1 and then  
> ran again. Then I got this:  
> % SPRSIN: Vector must have 6 elements: <FLOAT Array[3]>  
>  
> Anyone happen to know what's going on here, or have a better  
> suggestion?  
>  
> On Feb 13, 10:05 am, "Conor" <cmanc...@gmail.com> wrote:  
>  
>> Hey Everyone,  
>> I'm essentially trying to add together separate sections of an  
>> array, and I need to do it in a very speedy fashion. Here's the  
>> breakdown in IDL. I would want to take an array like this:  
>  
>> vals = [10, 15, 13, 12, 11, 14]  
>  
>> and imagine I have a mask (which I can easily make) like this:  
>  
>> mask = [ 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1 ]  
>  
>> I would then want to add together everything with the same mask value  
>> and put it in a new array. So the result would be:  
>  
>> sums = [38, 37]  
>  
>> I'm generating images, and for each image I generate this will be done  
>> 1000 times, and there will be 1000 different mask values each time it  
>> is done. I'll be generating a couple hundred images, so I'll be  
>> running this task a couple hundred thousand times - i.e. execution  
>> speed is very important. Any suggestions on how to speed things up  
>> would be highly appreciated.  
>> Thanks in advanced,  
>> Conor

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