Subject: Re: fastest way to find the first non-zero value in an array
Posted by Spon on Tue, 08 Apr 2008 13:56:33 GMT

On Apr 8, 2:15 pm, Vince Hradil <hrad...@yahoo.com> wrote:
> On Apr 8, 3:04 am, smas...@locean-ipsl.upmc.fr wrote:
>
>> Hi,
>
>> I want to find the first non-zero value of an array. Is there a faster
>> way to do this than with the "where" command: (where(array ne 0))[0]
>> "Where" will look for all non-zero values and I only need the first
>> one. It would be great if I could stop "where" in its search process
>> as soon as it found one element...
>
>> sebastien
>
> Wow - I'd be interested in knowing how slow 'where' is. Are we
> talking the difference between 0.01 seconds and 0.05 seconds? Or even
> the difference between 1 and 5 seconds? Time is money, but at what
> point does our 'need for speed' end?

You make a good point, Vince.

If anyone can find an array that IDL actually searches faster using my
Histogram-and-small-Where setup than by using "Where" on its own, let
me know! :-)

Chris