Subject: Re: quick testing of string variables
Posted by rivers on Tue, 23 Apr 1996 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <moninger-2304960900010001@zirkle.fsl.noaa.gov>, moninger@fsl.noaa.gov (Bill Moninger) writes:
> I have an array called station_name, dimensioned (6,n).  Each item is a
> string 6 characters long.  I would like to quickly test station_name
> against a particular string variable, find_this_station, another string of
> dimension 6.
>
> Is there any way to do this without using loops?
>
> If I have to use loops, does anyone have a tip on the fastest way to do so?
>
> Is there are better way to configure the array station_name to make such
> tests (against a particular station name) faster?

Here is how to do it:

```
IDL> a = ['s1', 's2', 's3', 's4', 's5', 's6']
IDL> t = where(a eq 's4')
IDL> print, t
       3
```

The where() function finds the index number of the string in the array which
matches your test string. It returns -1 if there is no match.

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