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Subject: Re: How to get matching elements of array efficiently

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Tue, 23 Feb 2010 21:06:02 GMT

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You might look at Craig Markwardt's program match2 in  
<http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/pro/misc/match2.pro>

For your example, one would type

```
IDL> match2, a, b, suba, subb
```

```
IDL> print,where(suba GE 0)
```

```
0      2      3      4
```

You might be able to make match2.pro more efficient, because it also gives the index of a (not necessarily unique) value in B that matches a value in A, which is information you don't need. --Wayne

On Feb 23, 3:11 pm, JJ <[j...@cornell.edu](mailto:j...@cornell.edu)> wrote:

> Hi All,

>

> I'm looking for an efficient (non-loop) solution to this problem. I  
> have two arrays A, B. The elements of A are not necessarily unique,  
> nor is A necessarily sorted. I'd like to find all the indices in A  
> that match values that occur in B.

>

> For example, if A = [7,1,8,7,8], B = [7,8], the result should be  
> [0,2,3,4].

>

> A and B can have many (order millions) of unique values, so I'd rather  
> avoid a loop if I can.

>

> Is there any way to do this efficiently?

>

> Thanks.

>

> -JJ

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