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Subject: Re: Array searching efficiency

Posted by [pgrigis](#) on Fri, 11 Feb 2011 15:35:00 GMT

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On Feb 10, 7:47 pm, Matt Francis <mattjamesfran...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Feb 11, 11:44 am, Matt Francis <mattjamesfran...@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>>> I would shocked if it wasn't several orders of magnitude faster

>>> (for this many iterations) to Histogram your times array with some

>>> appropriate bin size and then ask "which bin" your time\_now

>>> was in with Value\_Locate.

>

>> Thanks David, VALUE\_LOCATE is exactly the function I'm looking for.

>

> Thanks also to Paulo, who ninja'd my previous post.

As a general comment, from a basic algorithmic point of view,  
finding one element in a sorted array is a  $\log(N)$  kind of problem.

An example of an algorithm that does this is bisection:  
go to the middle of the array - check if the wanted item  
is left or right, then go to the middle of that side, check  
in which quarter the element is, rinse and repeat.

Ciao,  
Paolo

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