
Subject: Efficient comparison of array location in two lists
Posted by [Matt Francis](#) on Mon, 21 Feb 2011 23:59:57 GMT
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I have two sets of data, both comprised of a STRARR labelling the data and a FLTARR of the data itself.

I want to compare the data in the two sets, but the order and number of labels are different, so I'd first need to find which array elements in each FLTARR correspond to the same label.

It's trivial to see how this can be accomplished by simply looping over either data set and using WHERE(STRCMP()), but is there a way to do this without the loop?

To make it clear, say I had:

```
foo1 = ['a','b','c']  
foo2 = ['a','c','b']
```

I want a single line that produces:

```
IDL_MAGIC(foo1,foo2,indx1,indx2)  
print,indx1,indx2  
-> [0,1,2] [0,2,1]
```

So that could compare

foo1_data[indx1] and foo2_data[indx2] in whatever way I wanted.

Any thoughts?
