
Subject: Avoiding multiple or complex WHEREs?

Posted by [cgguido](#) on Mon, 21 Feb 2011 21:31:00 GMT

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;Say I have an array of point IDs and times where p[0,*] are IDs and
;p[1,*] are times, something like:

```
p=[[1,1],[1,2],[2,3]]
```

;Typically, the array has many points, many times and many gaps
;I want to be able to get a subset of 'p' that contains a range
;[id0:iden] or a list [id0,id2,id7] of IDs and Ts the most efficient
;way possible.

;Right now, I build an array 'i' with one FOR loop where i[id,t] is
the row index to 'p'
;with the correct id and t. If that combinations does not exist, then
;i[id,t]=NaN. So:

```
i[0,0]=NaN  
i[2,0]=NaN  
i[1,*]=[NaN,0,1,NaN]
```

;So if I want all instances of particle 1 in array p I do

```
i1=i[1,where(i[1,*] ge 0)]  
p1=p[:,i1]
```

;This gets handy when I want particles 1,3,4 and times [23:100],
;because I don't have to do where(id eq 1 OR id eq 3 OR id EQ 4....
etc.)

```
i_cool=i[1,where(i[[1,3,4],[23:100]] ge 0)]  
p_cool=p[:,i_cool]
```

;Now, I am betting that a histogram/histobin trick might be even
;better... Any ideas?

;PS: This does not deal nicely with IDs or Ts that are bigger than the
;biggest contained in 'p'
