On Mar 7, 4:02 pm, Paulo Penteado <pp.pente...@gmail.com> wrote:
> On Mar 7, 5:32 pm, Paolo <pgri...@gmail.com> wrote:
>
>> Single stars can easily be located with where:
>
>> ind=where(allstars.starID EQ 'Delta Pavonis',count)
>> if count EQ 1 then print,'The magnitude of '+allstars[ind].starID+' is
>> '+strtrim(allstars[ind].magnitude,2)
>
> I would not call that "easily". The two problems are mentioned in the
> first question: "but I don't a priori know how many stars I have, and
> to find a particular star I'd have to search on the ID element."
>
> The search is awkward and not efficient,
well i never thought of "where" as being particularly awkward
inefficient, yes if used a lot
alternatively the stars could be sorted alphabetically by ID
to allow for fast search

> the arrays cannot have elements dynamically added or removed,

you can do concatenatation to add, say, another bunch of 100 stars
stars can be removed by setting the ID to the empty string or
using array concatenation yet again
not extremly efficient but works

> and they would not avoid
> repetitions (elements with the same key).
stars are unique - so why would he have duplicates?

Ciao,
Paolo