
Subject: Re: Efficient pattern-matching in a large array

Posted by [Bob\[4\]](#) on Wed, 17 Aug 2011 21:14:00 GMT

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This is nice but it would seem an incorrect use of `keyword_set(w)` in the while statement? If the where statement returns [0] (a possibly valid match) then the while statement will not run. Thus one of the standard approaches for detecting a successful where is needed (i.e., check that `count gt 0` or `pat[0] gt -1` w/o the `/NULL`).

ASIDE: IDL does not let you subscript a !null variable as a length one array.

```
IDL> a = !NULL
```

```
IDL> print, a[0]
```

```
% Variable is undefined: A.
```

```
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

Why not? Seems to me it should print !NULL. This would be occasionally useful, although it would not help with the above problem.
