
Subject: Re: Relative distances between vector elements and search for matches in other vector.

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 25 Apr 2012 14:40:31 GMT

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Trifon Trifonov writes:

> I want to mention that I already made a working algorithm
> but I am 1000 % sure that the more experienced people
> here can help me to make it much more elegant and efficient.
> Later on I have a other problem on that I stuck but lets
> see can you help me on that and it is possible to solve
> it my self... if not I will post again :(

I have a reading assignment for you. :-)

Are FOR Loops the Embodiment of Pure Evil?

<http://www.idlcoyote.com/tips/forloops.html>

Are FOR Loops *Really* Evil?

<http://www.idlcoyote.com/tips/forloops2.html>

I don't have time to look at this in much detail,
except to point out that you have a lot of code
that looks like this:

```
for j=0L, n_elements(xx)-1 do begin
  ratio[j] = xx[0] - xx[j]
endfor
```

This code can *always* be written (and will work a LOT
faster) if you write it like this:

```
ratio = xx[0] - xx
```

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
