
Subject: Re: The intersection of 2 arrays
Posted by [wonko](#) on Tue, 04 Mar 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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williams@irc.chmcc.org (Phil Williams) wrote:

```
> I know that I can find the union of two arrays by doing something like
>
> temp = [array1, array2]
> union = temp(uniq(temp, sort(temp)))
>
> But how would I go about finding the intersection of the two arrays?
> i.e. Is there a nice vector way of doing it rather than brute force?
> (aka: Which IDL function did I miss this time?)
```

How big are your elements?

My idea would be something like this:

```
mask = bytarr( max( [ array1, array2 ] ) + 1 )
mask(array1) = 1b
mask(array2) = mask(array2) + 1b
intersection = where( mask eq 2b, count )
```

Works for positive values only. And the intersection of [1L, 2L] and [1L, 100000000L] might be a problem...

Alex

--

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