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Subject: Efficient comparison of arrays  
Posted by [Andy Loughe](#) on Fri, 08 Aug 1997 07:00:00 GMT  
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Hi!

I feel I should know the answer to this one, but I don't, so here goes.

Given vectors of the type...

a = [1,2,3,4,5]

b = [3,4,5,6,7]

What is the most efficient way to determine which values that occur in a also occur in b (i.e., the values [3,4,5] occur in both a and b).

Presumably this needs to be done without loops (to be efficient), but an obvious solution escapes me.

Thanks for your help.

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"I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forego their use."  
-Galileo