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Subject: Re: Efficient comparison of arrays

Posted by [J.D. Smith](#) on Mon, 11 Aug 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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> Here is another solution that was posted on this newsgroup several years  
> ago. I found it useful enough to keep around. The header credits the  
> creators.  
>  
> Dave  
>  
> END

Unfortunately, this is even slower than David's routine for all but the tiniest of vectors, and is ridiculously slow for large vectors (depending on the memory in your machine), since it requires two arrays of size  $N^2$  where  $N$  is the length of the vector. It is clearly not the best solution to the stated problem (finding common elements, not necessarily their repetition count or location in the vectors). The `contain()` function I gave in my other post is a much faster alternative. For repetition counts and positions, `where_array` is more useful.

JD

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