
Subject: Re: Counting the lengths of continuous numbers in an array

Posted by [mankoff](#) on Fri, 08 Aug 2008 21:28:20 GMT

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On Aug 8, 5:05 pm, andy.mcn...@gmail.com wrote:

> Howdy folks.

>

> Say I have the following array: [1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 17,
> 18, 19]

>

> How would I tell IDL to go through this array and return the array [4,
> 2, 1, 2, 3].....the lengths of the continuous groups of numbers in the
> array?

>

> Thanks!

> -Andy McNeel

I'm not sure how robust this is for other arrays, but I can get your
2nd array from your first like so, assuming the 1st array is "a". I
didn't test boundary cases (runlength of 1 on beginning or end) or
much else...

```
IDL> aa = [a[0],a,0]
```

```
IDL> b = where( (aa-shift(aa,1)) ne 1)
```

```
IDL> c = b-shift(b,1)
```

```
IDL> print, c[1:*
```

```
      4      2      1      2      3
```

-k.

Subject: Re: Counting the lengths of continuous numbers in an array

Posted by [andy.mcneel](#) on Fri, 08 Aug 2008 21:41:02 GMT

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On Aug 8, 4:28 pm, mankoff <mank...@gmail.com> wrote:

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> IDL> b = where( (aa-shift(aa,1)) ne 1)
> IDL> c = b-shift(b,1)
> IDL> print, c[1:*]
>      4      2      1      2      3
>
> -k.
```

This worked beautifully. Thanks! -Andy

Subject: Re: Counting the lengths of continuous numbers in an array
Posted by [Brian Larsen](#) on Mon, 11 Aug 2008 13:08:45 GMT
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```
>> IDL> aa = [a[0],a,0]
>> IDL> b = where( (aa-shift(aa,1)) ne 1)
>> IDL> c = b-shift(b,1)
>> IDL> print, c[1:*]
>>      4      2      1      2      3
```

While I can't seem to find it this second my tired and jet lagged brain is telling me that there is an built-in idl function to calculate `array[*]-array[1:*`], which should be equivalent to above. Now to remember the function.

Cheers,

Brian
