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Subject: Re: Accelerating "for" loops  
Posted by [jeanh](#) on Thu, 14 Oct 2010 13:59:40 GMT  
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On 14/10/2010 9:31 AM, Regine wrote:

```
> Hello,  
> I need to know if there's a way to make this code go faster as I am  
> using very large arrays.  
> the code is :  
> nTab=15296820  
> n_Tag1=5925470  
> n_Tag2= 2478581  
> n_Tag3=6892766  
> FinalTable=make_array(nTab)  
>  
> ;Indice_tag1, Indice_tag2 and Indice_Tag3 are arrays of size n_Tag1,  
> n_Tag2 and n_Tag3 respectively  
>  
> for i=0L,nTab-1 do begin  
>   for j=0L,n_Tag1-1 do begin  
>     for k=0L,n_tag2-1 do begin  
>       for l=0L,n_tag3-1 do begin  
>         if i eq Indice_Tag1[j] then begin  
>           FinalTable[i]=Tag1[j]  
>           Endif  
>         if i eq Indice_tag2[k] then begin  
>           FinalTable[i]=tag2[k]  
>           endif  
>         if i eq Indice_tag3[l] then begin  
>           FinalTable[i]=tag3[l]  
>           endif  
>         endfor  
>       endfor  
>     endfor  
>   endfor  
> endfor  
>  
> END  
>  
> Thank you in advance for any help that you can provide,  
>  
> Cheers,
```

Hi,

Here are three ways, faster and faster....

First, from your code, you are checking tag1[j] k\*l times too often,  
tag2[k] l times too often... Also, in your code, only the last occurrence

of i=indiceTag[j] (and for k and l) are considered... is this what you want? if the first occurrence is ok, then break the loop when found!)

```
for i=0L,nTab-1 do begin
  for j=0L,n_Tag1-1 do begin

    if i eq Indice_Tag1[j] then $
      FinalTable[i]=Tag1[j]

    for k=0L,n_tag2-1 do begin

      if i eq Indice_tag2[k] then $
        FinalTable[i]=tag2[k]

      for l=0L,n_tag3-1 do begin
        if i eq Indice_tag3[l] then $
          FinalTable[i]=tag3[l]

      endfor
    endfor
  endfor
endfor
```

-----

now, this is inefficient... you can easily remove loops j,k and l

```
for i=0L,nTab-1 do begin

  J_idx = where(indice_tag1 eq i, countJ)
  if countJ gt 0 then finalTable[i] = tag1[countJ-1]
  J_idx = 0B

  K_idx = where(indice_tag2 eq i, countK)
  if countK gt 0 then finalTable[i] = tag2[countK-1]
  K_idx = 0B

  L_idx = where(indice_tag3 eq i, countL)
  if countL gt 0 then finalTable[i] = tag3[countL-1]
  L_idx = 0B

endfor
```

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and the best option (if you have enough memory), is to use histograms!  
I don't have IDL in front of me so I will leave the implementation

details to you

basically:

```
histo = histogram(indice_tag1, min=0, binSize=0, reverse_indices = ri)
then look when there is one or more match (histo>0) and use the last
indice provided in ri for the bin.
```

Do the same with tag2 etc and assign the values to your final array

Jean

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