
Subject: quick testing of string variables

Posted by [moninger](#) on Tue, 23 Apr 1996 07:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I have an array called station_name, dimensioned (6,n). Each item is a string 6 characters long. I would like to quickly test station_name against a particular string variable, find_this_station, another string of dimension 6.

Is there any way to do this without using loops?

If I have to use loops, does anyone have a tip on the fastest way to do so?

Is there are better way to configure the array station_name to make such tests (against a particular station name) faster?

I shall appreciate any help anyone can provide.

-Bill Moninger

--

Bill Moninger, NOAA/Forecast Systems Laboratory.

home: 303-494-1709, work: 303-497-6435

Subject: Re: quick testing of string variables

Posted by [hamill](#) on Sun, 28 Apr 1996 07:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

The example below is fine. It is often convenient, and a good idea, to use an additional argument to the WHERE function, since it returns the number of matches found, i.e. t = WHERE(a EQ 's4',n) & IF n NE 0 THEN ... Use of n is to my taste cleaner and easier to read.

This is my first posting to any newsgroup; so apologies if for some reason it does not read well.

Jim Hamill
hamill@ais.net

In article <DqBo3L.KL4@midway.uchicago.edu>, rivers@cars3.uchicago.edu wrote:

> In article <moninger-2304960900010001@zirkle.fsl.noaa.gov>, moninger@fsl.noaa.gov (Bill Moninger) writes:

>> I have an array called station_name, dimensioned (6,n). Each item is a
>> string 6 characters long. I would like to quickly test station_name

```

>> against a particular string variable, find_this_station, another string of
>> dimension 6.
>>
>> Is there any way to do this without using loops?
>>
>> If I have to use loops, does anyone have a tip on the fastest way to do so?
>>
>> Is there are better way to configure the array station_name to make such
>> tests (against a particular station name) faster?
>
> Here is how to do it:
>
> IDL> a = ['s1', 's2', 's3', 's4', 's5', 's6']
> IDL> t = where(a eq 's4')
> IDL> print, t
>      3
>
> The where() function finds the index number of the string in the array which
> matches your test string. It returns -1 if there is no match.
>
>
> _____
> Mark Rivers                (312) 702-2279 (office)
> CARS                      (312) 702-9951 (secretary)
> Univ. of Chicago          (312) 702-5454 (FAX)
> 5640 S. Ellis Ave.        (708) 922-0499 (home)
> Chicago, IL 60637         rivers@cars3.uchicago.edu (Internet)

```
