

---

Subject: Re: Summary: comparing arrays  
Posted by [rfinch](#) on Tue, 12 Mar 1991 18:31:34 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Here is yet a fourth way; this technique was mentioned by others.

From: RSI <idl@pprince.Colorado.EDU>

Here is solution #4 (and counting) to your array intersection problem. The algorithm is very efficient for byte, integer, and long arrays, that have a limited range. It will not work for other data types.

```
function intersect, a, b
; Return the values that are common between two arrays.
; Restrictions:
; A and B should be integers, longs, or bytes. Their combined range
; should be relatively small, as two histogram arrays of length equal
; to the combined range are created.
;
minv = min(a) < min(b) ;Smallest value
return, where((histogram(a, min=minv) ne 0) and $
(histogram(b, min=minv) ne 0))+minv
end
```

--  
Ralph Finch 916-445-0088  
rfinch@water.ca.gov ...ucbvax!ucdavis!caldwr!rfinch  
Any opinions expressed are my own; they do not represent the DWR

---