
Subject: Zero vector detection in IDL

Posted by [Frank Morgan](#) on Mon, 28 Jun 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Given a big byte or integer array (actually a 1-D vector), is there a fast IDL way to check whether any non-zero elements exist?

Something like "if (total(x) EQ 0)..." or a where() construct will work, but scans the whole vector when the first non-zero element is enough to answer the question. max(x) is even worse.

On the other hand:

```
for i=0,n-1 do begin
  if (x(i) NE 0) then begin
    (it's not all zero)
    goto, BREAK
  endif
endif
BREAK:
```

will stop early if possible, but looping a conditional is maybe not the fastest structure in IDL.

An internal command that implements the loop concept would be what I'm looking for I think but I don't know if it exists.

Any better ideas?

Thanks,
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