
Subject: Re: Mode????

Posted by [Vapuser](#) on Thu, 14 Jan 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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steinhh@ulrik.uio.no (Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan) writes:

> Robert Kehoe wrote:

>

>> I am trying to find an IDL function that returns the mode out of
>> an array of numbers anyone know a way of doing this. It strange
>> that there does not seem to be a function for this.

>

> It would be (a lot!) easier to answer this question if you could
> explain what you mean by "returning the mode out of an array of
> numbers". But let me have one or two shots:

>

> If you mean the modulus of the numbers in an array, use the
> operator MOD, as in:

>

> answer = numbers mod 5 ;; Returns array "numbers" modulo 5

>

> If you mean the size of an array (mode out of an array, well
> could be..?) try the function size().

>

> Otherwise, please clarify.

>

> Stein Vidar

Perhaps he means the statistical mode, i.e. the most probable value.
I don't know any procedure that does this but someone has probably
written one. Check the links on Dave Fanning's web page
(<http://www.dfanning.com/documents/idllinks.html>). You may find it
there.

The simpleminded way would be to calculate the histogram, then take
the mode to be whatever value the maximum of the histogram was. This ignores
the possibility of a multi-modal distribution. But I did say
'simpleminded'

William
