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Subject: Re: Is there no NULL in IDL??

Posted by [Sean Raffuse](#) on Tue, 21 May 2002 17:29:08 GMT

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"Wayne Landsman" <landsman@mpb.gsfc.nasa.gov> wrote in message  
news:3CE97BDF.A7A1070B@mpb.gsfc.nasa.gov...

> Sean Raffuse wrote:

>

>> Am I just blind? What can I use for a null value when my data type is

>> integer? Please don't tell me zero.

>

> I can think of 4 options, each of which might be best in particular

> situations:

>

> (1) Use a known "non-physical" value (e.g. -32767) to flag nulls. (But  
> be careful when applying numeric operations on the data .)

>

I would like to visualize the data using ENVI as a spectral profile. A  
large negative value will give the same problem as a zero, only worse.

> (2) Convert to floating point and use NAN values to represent nulls.

>

Don't to convert to floats because the data is so large. I need to stick  
with integers.

> (3) Carry around an extra byte mask array indicating which pixels are  
> null.

>

This is a possibility, thanks for the help.

> (4) Carry around a "null pixel list" vector , i.e. a vector of 1-d  
> indices indicating which pixels in the data are null.

>

> --Wayne Landsman                    landsman@mpb.gsfc.nasa.gov

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