Subject: Re: Is there no NULL in IDL??
Posted by Wayne Landsman on Mon, 20 May 2002 22:42:39 GMT

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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 .)

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

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

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

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