## Subject: Re: Need a function to multiply the elements of an array
Posted by adorf on Thu, 27 Apr 1995 07:00:00 GMT

In article <3nm2uk$qqq@pinot.umd.edu>, barsam@Glue.umd.edu (Barsam Marasli) wrote:

> Hi,
>
> I am looking for a routine to multiply the elements of an array.
> Is there a faster way of doing it than the following?
>
>
> function prod, x
> n = n_elements(x)-1
> z = 1.d0
> for i = 0, n do z = z * x(i)
> return, z
> end
>
>
>
> BM

You can try

z = exp(total(alog(x)))

Whether it is faster than your function, I do not know. On my Sparcstation 2 it took 2 seconds to multiply 1 million numbers.

Regards
Hans-Martin

PS: I think that apart from the function 'total' (which might more appropriately be called 'sum') there should be a native IDL function 'prod' doing what you do by hand.

--
Hans-Martin Adorf
ST-ECF/ESO
Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 2
D-85748 Garching b. Muenchen
Germany
Tel: +49-89-32006-261
Fax: +49-89-32006-480
Internet: adorf@eso.org