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Subject: Re: Need a function to multiply the elements of an array

Posted by [adorf](#) on Thu, 27 Apr 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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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.

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