
Subject: Re: MISSING_VALUE

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 30 Mar 2005 13:52:58 GMT

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Matthias Demuzere writes:

> Now the problem has moved. When the dataset is initially read in with
> read_ascii, I get the value NaN where it should....
>
> BUT....I declare empty arrays (with zero's) in which I put a part of the
> original array. So where there is the value NaN, my new array now shows
> 0....Any solutions?
> Hope I made myself clear!

In general, setting missing values to NaN should probably be done in the last stage of data preparation, if possible, since it is typically MUCH easier to work with numbers than with, well, not numbers. I would probably set the missing values from READ_ASCII to something easily recognizable as not a valid value (e.g. -99999.9) and do all your array manipulation with these numbers. Then, at the end, find all the -99999.9s and turn them into NaNs.

The only other solution you have is to find the NaNs in your original array and set the corresponding values in your new array to NaN. But that is harder to do:

http://www.dfanning.com/tips.check_nan.html

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
