
Subject: Re: MODE in IDL?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 25 Jan 2006 03:04:13 GMT

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Jonathan Greenberg writes:

> I can't seem to find the function to calculate the mode of an array -- how
> do I do this in IDL?

I'm trying to remember back to grade school or somewhere, but isn't the mode the maximum of the frequency distribution. I remember that the mode isn't unique, because two numbers could have the same frequency in the sample (bimodal, I guess) and it is theoretically possible to have no mode (all frequencies are the same).

But saying all that, if you have an integer array, I would think the mode is calculated like this:

```
array = [1, 1, 2, 4, 1, 3, 3, 2, 4, 5, 3, 2, 2, 1, 2, 6]
h = Histogram(array, MIN=Min(array))
bigfreq = Max(h)
mode = Where(h EQ bigfreq) + Min(array)
Print, mode
2
```

Cheers,

David

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