Subject: Re: IDL 4.0.1, best way to deal with missing/bad data
Posted by f055 on Thu, 22 Feb 1996 08:00:00 GMT
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->>>>> "Bill" == William Thompson <thompson@orpheus.nascom.nasa.gov> writes:
Bill> The trouble with using NaN values is ..... <cut>

Another problem with NaN is (I've just discovered to my cost) that there's
no way to represent it in integer or long variables - only double or floats.

I've been using NaN since upgrading to IDL4, and have just realised an error
in a couple of my programs: I read in a dataset, set all missing data to
!values.f_nan. Then, to replicate someone else's results who did some
analysis with a precision of 1 decimal place, I rounded all my values to
1 d.p. with:

fd = float(round(fd*10.)) / 10.

The round, of course, altered all values to integer and set all !values.f_nan
to zeros, which I then converted back to floats. I never noticed, oops.
If I'd known, I could've kept a copy of the original fd and used that to
remask the new fd where appropriate. But even so, I'm sure some applications
would want to use data as ints or longs with some kind of missing code.

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