
Subject: Re: Missing Data Programming Contest
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 09 Apr 2009 15:59:59 GMT
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David Fanning writes:

> You should assume:
>
> 1. The data can be any data type except complex or string.
>
> 2. The missing value *could* be !VALUES.F_NAN.
>
> 3. Unsophisticated users might be using your program,
> so, for example, they might pass in a missing value
> such as 594.32.
>
> No, this is NOT my homework! But I do need it ASAP. ;-)

Thanks all, for your help. This was a more difficult problem than I expected it to be, but this was probably due to my program structure more than anything else. I was hoping for a general solution, but couldn't see my way through to that. Maybe next time.

In the end, I ended up replacing "missing" values with NaNs, and then dealing with those just before processing. This is always complicated, of course, by not knowing a priori what kind of data you are talking about, so there is complicated code to deal with all of that. It's a bit of a dog's dish, but at least it works. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
