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Subject: Re: Missing Data Programming Contest  
Posted by [Homeyer](#) on Thu, 09 Apr 2009 12:41:24 GMT  
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On Apr 8, 6:26 pm, Homeyer <cam.the.weather....@gmail.com> wrote:  
> On Apr 8, 6:02 pm, Homeyer <cam.the.weather....@gmail.com> wrote:

>  
>  
>  
>> On Apr 8, 8:23 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

>  
>>> Folks,  
>  
>>> I don't have time today to think about this, so I've  
>>> decided to get you to do my thinking for me. :-)  
>  
>>> Suppose you are expecting a data array and you suspect  
>>> the data has "missing values" in it that you wish to  
>>> exclude from further processing. You write a keyword  
>>> for your routine that allows the user to pass in what  
>>> he is using for the "missing value".

>  
>>> PRO Junker, data, MISSING\_VALUE=missing\_value  
>  
>>> How would you write the code to assure that this missing  
>>> value would be excluded from further processing?

>  
>>> 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. ;-)

>  
>>> Cheers,

>  
>>> David  
>>> --  
>>> David Fanning, Ph.D.  
>>> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
>>> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:<http://www.dfanning.com/>  
>>> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

>

```

>> The following should suffice:
>
>> IF (missing_value GT 0) THEN BEGIN
>>   type = SIZE(array, /TNAME)
>
>>   CASE type OF
>>     'COMPLEX' : MESSAGE, 'Complex values not allowed for removing
>> MISSING data.'
>>     'STRING'  : MESSAGE, 'String values not allowed for removing
>> MISSING data.'
>>     ELSE      : invalid = WHERE((array EQ missing_value), iv_count,
>> COMPLEMENT = valid, NCOMPLEMENT = v_count)
>>   ENDCASE
>
>>   IF (v_count GT 0) THEN array = array[valid]
>> ENDIF
>
>> That is, if you dont care about overwriting the original data or it is
>> not gridded. If it is gridded (data points with missing values should
>> remain), then you could replace those with NaNs in the final array
>> using the indices above.
>
>> Cheers,
>> Cameron Homeyer
>
> oops, missed the NaN part:
>
> This would go before the last IF (v_count...
>
> IF (~FINITE(missing)) THEN invalid = WHERE(~FINITE(array), iv_count,
> COMPLEMENT = valid, NCOMPLEMENT = v_count)

```

The first IF statement should be "IF (N\_ELEMENTS(missing\_value) GT 0) THEN BEGIN" as well.

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