Subject: Re: Missing Data Programming Contest
Posted by wlandsman on Wed, 08 Apr 2009 19:11:56 GMT
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> Humm. The only really useful suggestion I've heard so
> far (I forgot my German dictionary today, so I'm not
> sure about Reimar's contribution) is to delete the
> MISSING_VALUE keyword and let the user worry about
> it. Surely this can't be the ONLY suggestion!
>

Well, I'll give the naive answer because I am not certain what the problem is. If the routine contains a MISSING = missing keyword, then you can decide whether the user wants a MISSING value or NAN. (Presumably a missing value rather than NAN is only useful for integer data.)

```
do_missing = 0
do_nan = 0
if N_elements(missing) GT 0 then $
      if finite(nan) then do_missing = 1 else do_nan = 1
```

and then you can process data accordingly. For example, to remove missing values from a variable x

```
if do_missing then begin
   g = where(x NE missing,Ng)   ;or use FLOATS_EQUAL for testing
   if Ng GT 0 then x = x[g]
endif else if do_nan then x = x[where(finite(x)]
```

I suspect I am missing something in your question. Or are you just looking for more speed or elegance? --Wayne