
Subject: Re: Missing Data Programming Contest
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 08 Apr 2009 18:26:26 GMT
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David Fanning writes:

- > 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.

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!

Cheers,

David

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