
Subject: Re: filling in missing values

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Tue, 25 Aug 2009 15:50:09 GMT

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On Aug 25, 8:34 am, Laura <haixia...@gmail.com> wrote:

> Hi, I'm new to IDL and working on data files that assign a particular
> value for where the data is not available. But I want to replace such
> values with the nearest valid value in the array. Is there an
> efficient way to do that instead of loop?

Yes. If you can tolerate always replacing using the good value on the left, then this would do the trick.

```
wh = where(data EQ BAD_VALUE, ct)
while ct GT 0 do begin
  data[wh] = data[wh-1]
  wh = where(data EQ BAD_VALUE, ct)
endwhile
```

It keeps on replacing until no values are left.

But if you are trying to replace bad values with local good values,
why not use the median function?

```
medval = median(data, 5) ;; Sliding 5-point median
wh = where(data EQ BAD_VALUE, ct)
if ct GT 0 then data[wh] = medval[wh]
```

There are ways to be smarter about that. For example the median includes the bad values, and one may want to filter them out first.

Craig
