
Subject: Re: Finding the index of the median
Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 29 Oct 1996 08:00:00 GMT
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Dean Schulze <schulze@cassini.lpl.arizona.edu> writes:

> The median function will return the median value of an
> array. Is there anyway to obtain the index into the array
> of the median value? For example, if I find the median in an
> array of measured values how can I get the corresponding value
> from the companion noise array?

The easiest way is to use the WHERE function. Your code might look something like this:

```
array = [3, 7, 2, 8, 15, 1]
noise = RANDOMU(seed, 6)

medianValue = MEDIAN(array)
index = WHERE(array EQ medianValue)

Print, noise(index)
```

Be aware that there can be multiple locations in your array that are equal to the median value. The index that is returned by the WHERE function will be an array of all of those values.

Just a tip. The return value from the WHERE function (if it finds something) is **always** an array, even if it finds only one instance. If you are going to use that return value as if it were a scalar value (e.g., as a counter in a loop) be sure you subset it like this: `index(0)`.

Yours,

David

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