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Subject: Re: Succinct way of testing array membership  
Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Fri, 31 Aug 2012 17:26:46 GMT  
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On 8/30/12 3:12 PM, Helder wrote:

> On Thursday, August 30, 2012 7:09:35 PM UTC+2, Mike Galloy wrote:

>> On 8/30/12 10:51 AM, godber wrote:

>>

>>> Is there a more succinct way of testing array membership than using where and n\_elements on the indexes? Something like array\_contains(a, 'pancakes')?

>>

>>>

>>

>>> Austin

>>

>>>

>>

>>

>>

>> In general, how about:

>>

>>

>>

>> print, where(a eq 'pancakes', /null) ? 'found' : 'not found'

>>

>>

>>

>> Mike

>>

>> --

>>

>> Michael Galloy

>>

>> [www.michaelgalloy.com](http://www.michaelgalloy.com)

>>

>> Modern IDL: A Guide to IDL Programming (<http://modernidl.idldev.com>)

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>> Research Mathematician

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>

> Hi Mike,

> I never noticed the presence of the /null keyword. Nice tip.

> However, the version you provided will not work (at least not on my pc...).

> How about:

> print, (where(a EQ 'pancakes', /null) NE !NULL) ? 'found' : 'not found'

> or

> print, ((where(a EQ 'pancakes'))[0] GE 0) ? 'found' : 'not found'

>  
> Not as clean, but still doing the job.  
>  
> Cheers,  
> Helder  
>

I like Wayne's approach using ARRAY\_EQUAL. I was trying to get too cute and eliminating the comparison to !null, try:

```
IDL> a = ['cakes', 'pies']  
IDL> print, where(a eq 'cakes', /null) ne !null ? 'found' : 'not found'  
found  
IDL> print, where(a eq 'pancakes', /null) ne !null ? 'found' : 'not found'  
not found
```

Mike

--

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