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Subject: Re: Succinct way of testing array membership  
Posted by [Helder Marchetto](#) on Thu, 30 Aug 2012 21:12:02 GMT  
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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')?

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>>

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>> Austin

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> In general, how about:

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>

> 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>)

>

> Research Mathematician

>

> Tech-X Corporation

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

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