
Subject: Re: SIZE() vs. N_ELEMENTS()

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Thu, 16 Jul 2009 19:59:29 GMT

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On Jul 16, 2:39 pm, wlandsman <wlands...@gmail.com> wrote:

Is there any situation now where

> one must use SIZE() to get the number of elements rather than

> N_ELEMENTS().

Immediately after posting I realized that the answer to the above question is "yes". In the following code using ASSOC(), N_Elements(a) equals 1, but size(a,/N_elements) equals 2. --Wayne

```
b = {a:indgen(10),b:fltarr(100)}
openw,lun,'test.dat',/get_lun
writeu,lun,replicate(b,12)
close,lun
```

```
openr,lun,'test.dat'
c = replicate(b,2)
a = assoc(lun,c)
print,size(a,/n_elements)
print,N_elements(a)
```

Subject: Re: SIZE() vs. N_ELEMENTS()

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 16 Jul 2009 20:04:40 GMT

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wlandsman writes:

> Immediately after posting I realized that the answer to the above
> question is "yes". In the following code using ASSOC(), N_Elements(a)
> equals 1, but size(a,/N_elements) equals 2. --Wayne

>

>

> b =3D {a:indgen(10),b:fltarr(100)}

> openw,lun,'test.dat',/get_lun

> writeu,lun,replicate(b,12)

> close,lun

>

> openr,lun,'test.dat'

> c =3D replicate(b,2)

> a =3D assoc(lun,c)

> print,size(a,/n_elements)

> print,N_elements(a)

Yes, but which is *correct*? :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: SIZE() vs. N_ELEMENTS()

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 16 Jul 2009 20:11:36 GMT

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wlandsman writes:

```
> Immediately after posting I realized that the answer to the above
> question is "yes". In the following code using ASSOC(), N_Elements(a)
> equals 1, but size(a,/N_elements) equals 2. --Wayne
>
>
> b =3D {a:indgen(10),b:fltarr(100)}
> openw,lun,'test.dat',/get_lun
> writeu,lun,replicate(b,12)
> close,lun
>
> openr,lun,'test.dat'
> c =3D replicate(b,2)
> a =3D assoc(lun,c)
> print,size(a,/n_elements)
> print,N_elements(a)
```

By the way, since the Prize Chairman is leaving in about half an hour for a little mid-summer beach action in the Caribbean with his new Latin lover (a fox to hear him tell it), he has decided to award this month's most obscure post prize to Wayne. Tough competition this month though, in the form of Scope_VarFetch and Execute as suggestions to the poor guy who wanted to know what an array was.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: SIZE() vs. N_ELEMENTS()

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Thu, 16 Jul 2009 20:25:35 GMT

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> Yes, but which is *correct*? :-)

As usual, what is correct depends on the question you are asking.
There is one ASSOC variable, but it is mapped to a structure with 2
elements.

I presume the Prize Chairman will spend his time under the Carribbean
Sun pondering this conundrum. Have fun!

--Wayne

> Tough competition this month though, in the form of Scope_VarFetch
> and Execute as suggestions to the poor guy who wanted
> to know what an array was.

To be fair, it wasn't clear to me from the original question whether
it was from a beginner or not. I know in the past that I have made
the opposite mistake of answering a question from an expert with an
explanation for a beginner...

Subject: Re: SIZE() vs. N_ELEMENTS()

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Sat, 18 Jul 2009 09:40:00 GMT

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On Jul 16, 3:59 pm, wlandsman <wlands...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Jul 16, 2:39 pm, wlandsman <wlands...@gmail.com> wrote:

> Is there any situation now where

>

>> one must use SIZE() to get the number of elements rather than

>> N_ELEMENTS().

>

> Immediately after posting I realized that the answer to the above

> question is "yes". In the following code using ASSOC(), N_Elements(a)

> equals 1, but size(a,/N_elements) equals 2. --Wayne

>

...

poof = sound of my mind being blown.
