
Subject: Succinct way of testing array membership
Posted by [godber](#) on Thu, 30 Aug 2012 16:51:48 GMT
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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

Subject: Re: Succinct way of testing array membership
Posted by [Russell Ryan](#) on Fri, 31 Aug 2012 14:48:22 GMT
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On Thursday, August 30, 2012 12:51:48 PM UTC-4, 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

Yeah, the /null feature is nice. But be careful, because /null was only added to IDL in v8.0. So, if you expect your code to be distributed to someone with pre 8.0 (and I know lots of people still running 7), then this will fail.

-russell

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
>>
>> 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
>

```

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

--

Michael Galloy

www.michaelgalloy.com

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

Research Mathematician

Tech-X Corporation
