1. arraysize=1 means what?

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2. Let's see.

Take this VOTable ("test.vot"):
<?xml version='1.0'?><VOTABLE version="1.3" xmlns="http://www.ivoa.net/xml/VOTable/v1.3">
<RESOURCE>
<TABLE name="trap">
<FIELD datatype="short" name="f1" arraysize="1"/>
<FIELD datatype="short" name="f2"/>
</TABLE>
</RESOURCE>
</VOTABLE>

3. Astropy

Then the following program:
from astropy.table import Table

t = Table.read("test.vot")
print(t.columns[0])
print(t.columns[1])

prints
f1 [1]

1

f2

1

A 1-array and a scalar!

Pop quiz! (Compulsory participation): Are
and <column name="i" type='integer' arraysize='1'>
1. equivalent?
2. different?
3. don't care.
4. don't know.

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(cf. Fig. 1)

(cf. Fig. 2)

(cf. Fig. 3)

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4. don't know.
4. TOPCAT

Load the table into TOPCAT, check the metadata:

(cf. Fig. 4)

It's two scalars!

5. How Bad Is It?

Well, numpy magic where 1-arrays are sometimes quite like scalars prevent the worst.

But I have had to write code like

```python
def force_scalar(val):
    if np.isscalar(val):
        return val
    else:
        return val[0]
```

to deal with VizieR output (that has `arraysize='1'`).

6. What Do We Do?

I see five main options:

- Problem? What problem?
- Nudge people to drop `arraysize=1` for scalars (Note? Mild erratum?)
- Nudge people to have `arraysize=1` for scalars (Note? Mild erratum?)
- Require people to only write `arraysize=1` when they have 1-arrays ("Strong array erratum")
- Require people to interpret `arraysize=1` as scalars ("Strong scalar erratum")