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Subject: Re: statistics on large arrays

Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Tue, 23 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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Steve Carothers wrote:

>  
> Is there a limit to how large an array can be when finding the average or  
> stdev of the entire array? I have an array of about 630,000 elements. When  
> I try to find the average, the result is "NaNQ".  
>  
> Steve

One thing you may want to try is to explicitly use a double formatted array to overcome this problem (although you may then approach your memory limits ...). Apparently, MEAN has a /DOUBLE keyword. Does it help?

```
IDL> a=findgen(20)
IDL> print,mean(a) & help,mean(a)
% Compiled module: MEAN.
    9.50000
<Expression>  FLOAT   =    9.50000
IDL> a=dindgen(20)
IDL> print,mean(a) & help,mean(a)
    9.5000000
<Expression>  DOUBLE  =    9.5000000
```

Regards,  
Martin.

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