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Subject: Re: [Q]: ID analog to FORTRAN "sign" function  
Posted by [Phillip David](#) on Thu, 12 Oct 2000 07:00:00 GMT  
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Dick Jackson wrote:

>  
> Do I dare offer one more? Subscript lookups seem faster than arithmetic  
> operations, making this one faster, more compact and no less cryptic! :-)  
>  
> Return, Abs(a) \* ([-1, 1])[b GE 0]

to which I reply:

If this one really works, then why not go even one step further?

Return, ([-Abs(a), Abs(a))][b GE 0]

or

Return, ([a, -a])[a\*b LT 0]

I haven't timed either of these to find out if they're truly better (as I don't have IDL on my newsgroup computer), but they MIGHT work better...

Phillip

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