Subject: Re: TOTAL(): was Declaration of variables in IDL
Posted by Craig Markwardt on Thu, 04 Oct 2001 01:08:13 GMT

Wayne Landsman <landsman@mpb.gsfc.nasa.gov> writes:

> Craig Markwardt wrote:
>
>> The output of TOTAL is always a floating point type.
>
> Unless, of course, one supplies the /DOUBLE keyword to TOTAL()...

When I said "a floating point type" I meant a generic floating point
type, either float, double, complex, or double complex, as opposed to
an integer type. I think I am in hearty agreement with your wishes
for an integer-aware version of TOTAL().

Craig

> I mention this because at least a couple of times (e.g. when doing
> checksums) I have wished that TOTAL() also had a /L64 keyword. For
> example, according to MACHAR() on my Solaris machine, one loses
> precision with TOTAL() when totaling an integer array that sums to
> more than 2^53, but with a L64 output, one could sum up to 2^64-1
> without losing any precision.

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