
Subject: TOTAL(): was Declaration of variables in IDL
Posted by [Wayne Landsman](#) on Wed, 03 Oct 2001 22:34:00 GMT
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Craig Markwardt wrote:

> The output of TOTAL is always a floating point type.

Unless, of course, one supplies the /DOUBLE keyword to TOTAL()...

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.

--Wayne Landsman landsman@mpb.gsfc.nasa.gov
