Subject: Re: MEDIAN and double?
Posted by Craig Markwardt on Sat, 18 May 2002 02:49:01 GMT

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"Pavel A. Romashkin" <pavel_romashkin@hotmail.com> writes:

> I always thought that MEDIAN in Double is just
>
> print, (the_data[sort(the_data)])[n_elements(the_data)/2]

That works for a single number, but the nice part about MEDIAN is that
it can be applied with a sliding window, as in,

  ysmooth = median(y, window)

But, if your data have double precision then YSMOOTH is not always
high enough precision to respect the original data. Or, at least,
mine didn't.

For example, consider:

  IDL> print, median(1d + 2.4d-9 + [0,0]) - 1
      0.00000

Whoops!

Craig

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