
Subject: Re: Please explain this if you can: (short)
Posted by [sjt](#) on Mon, 05 Dec 1994 10:36:23 GMT
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Russ Welti (rwelti@chroma.mbt.washington.edu) wrote:
: Try this:

```
: IDL> a=bytarr(20)
: IDL> a(3)=244
: IDL> print,min(a)
: 0
: IDL> print,max(a)
: 244
: IDL> print,abs(max(a)-min(a))
: 12
: IDL> print,max(a)-min(a)
: 244
```

: What gives?

```
:
:                                     \
: Russ Welti                        /-\
:                                     (c-g)
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```

Evidently ABS isn't very bright! BYTE quantities are unsigned (try print, min(a) - max(a)). But ABS for takes MSB set => negative and does a two's complement on the argument.

```
--
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| James Tappin,      | School of Physics & Space Research | O__  |
| sjt@star.sr.bham.ac.uk | University of Birmingham    | -- V^ |
| "If all else fails--read the instructions!"      |      |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
```
