Subject: Re: Definition of skewness
Posted by K. Bowman on Fri, 12 Aug 2005 14:01:08 GMT
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In article <1123799104.723233.99170@f14g2000cwb.googlegroups.com>,
 "envi35@yahoo.ca" <envi35@yahoo.ca> wrote:

> Hi there,
> I want to use the skewness of some data series to do a rough
> classification. But I'm confused with the IDL online help about the
> SKEWNESS function: Skewness determines whether a distribution is
> symmetric about its MAXIMUM. While in Microsoft Excel, it says Skewness
> is a characterization of the degree of asymmetry of a distribution
> around its MEAN.
> It seems that the MEAN is right according to the algorithm of the
> skewness function in IDL, why the online help of IDL says MAXIMUM? Is
> this a typo or else? Could anybody knows more about statistics give me
> some help?
>
> Thanks, Jenny

The documentation is incorrect. Skewness is related to the third moment about
the mean.

It would be extremely helpful if the IDL manuals included the mathematical
expressions for quantities such as this, but unless they receive many requests,
RSI is unlikely to update the docs.

Regards, Ken Bowman