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Subject: Definition of skewness

Posted by [envi35@yahoo.ca](mailto:envi35@yahoo.ca) on Thu, 11 Aug 2005 22:25:04 GMT

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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

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