
Subject: Re: mean() function

Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Sun, 15 Jan 2006 08:58:06 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

```
> biocpu@yahoo.com writes:
>
>> The following looks very odd. Have any clues?
>>
>> IDL> y = fltarr(1008879)+35
>> IDL> id = where(y ne 35, cc)
>> IDL> print, cc
>>      0
>> ; so y is strictly 35.0 BUT
>> IDL> print, mean(y)
>>    35.5249
>>
>> IDL> print, mean(y(0:400000))
>>    35.0000
>
> Goodness! It is the 10th already and this is the first
> "The Sky is Falling" post of the year. I was beginning
> to wonder what was going on! :-)
>
> You might want to have a look at this:
>
> http://www.dfanning.com/math_tips/sky_is_falling.html
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
```

mean is not useable if it results in this

```
IDL> print,mean( make_array(500000,val=35,/float) )
    35.0413
IDL> print,mean( make_array(400000,val=35,/float) )
    35.0000
```

I prefer a slower routine if this is right.

no one would accept $1.0 + 1.0$ result = 1.5

The article is good to understand why mean should not be resolved this way!

Does one have implemented the gnu's version?

cheers
Reimar
