Subject: Re: mean() function

Posted by R.Bauer on Sun, 15 Jan 2006 08:58:06 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

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> biocpu@yahoo.com writes:
>> The following looks very odd. Have any clues?
>>
>> IDL> y = fltarr(1008879)+35
\rightarrow IDL\rightarrow 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
```

Does one have implemented the gnu's version?

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

Page 2 of 2 ---- Generated from comp.lang.idl-pvwave archive