Britta writes:

> The first column are seconds, second column - hour, third - minutes,
> fourth - seconds (if idl doesn't count column 2 to 4 as one column) ,
> sixth to tenth - data output from the spectrometer. The result of
> colMeans(6) should be approximately 136 (more or less :-), in the
> original file there are a lot more columns and also more rows). For
> print, colMeans(6) i obtain 1974.44. :-(

Well, if I take the data you sent me, and I run the program
I sent you, then this is what I get:

IDL> print, colmeans(6)
     135.808

So, I don't know what the problem might be.

You will have a problem with that first column, since IDL won't
read a number with two decimal points in it, but that is not
changing things otherwise, and if you are not using the first
column, I wouldn't worry about it.

> Is the value 2 in colMeans = Total(data, 2)/rows the number of
> dimensions? Why do i use 2? To obtain a 1-dimensional array (scalar)
> as a result?

The two indicates that the total should be obtained over the
2nd dimension. That is, over the rows. In other words, add up
the values in the columns.

> I'm quite sure that these are really stupid questions for you, so
> thank you for your patience.

No, the stupid questions I refuse to answer. :-)

Cheers,

David
--
David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")