
Subject: Histogram Warning

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 02 Apr 2009 17:27:45 GMT

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Folks,

Have I mentioned what a pain in the kiester it is to work with a weakly and dynamically typed language...

Oh, never mind. But let me say this. There is a small warning in the HISTOGRAM documentation that cautions against making the data type of the BINSIZE variable different from the data type of the data that is undergoing the histogram process. I would grab your red pen and draw a heavy red box around this warning so you are sure to see it. I would have profited, probably, had the warning been written in a 20-point bold font.

What is less well known, is that variables like OMIN and OMAX will also be returned in the data type of the input data. This can ALSO cause grief if you are not aware of this, believe me. :-(

Ignoring these warnings can cause a lot of strange and inaccurate results, as I've discovered in the past couple of days, fooling around with the HISTOPLLOT program. I just thought I would mention it, as I am worried others might have grown complacent over the years and believe IDL is always sure to do the right thing with respect to data typing. It ain't always so.

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
