Subject: Re: SIGN function: signof(num or array of num)
Posted by Carsten Lechte on Tue, 16 Mar 2010 15:35:58 GMT
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H. Evans wrote:
> Could be either + or -ve:
> IDL> print,!values.f_nan, - !values.f_nan
> NaN -NaN

Then, a totally different approach might be necessary to get
it completely right.

FINITE() tells you if you have a NaN, but since every
comparison that involves NaNs evaluates to FALSE, you cannot
find out if it's + or -NaN be equating to !VALUES.F_NAN.

One would have to extract the sign bit (assuming IEEE format,
taking into account endianness, precision etc.) and base the
calculation on that.

For my private version, I will add a term + (FINITE(x) EQ 0)
so all NaNs are assumed positive, since the one value that
SIGNUM(NaN) should not have is 0.

I wonder in what situation one would care about the correct sign
of something that is not a number.

chl