
Subject: Re: SIGN function: signof(num or array of num)

Posted by [Ding](#) on Tue, 16 Mar 2010 15:32:06 GMT

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On Mar 16, 1:31 pm, FÖLDY Lajos <fo...@rmki.kfki.hu> wrote:

> On Tue, 16 Mar 2010, Ding wrote:

>> Dear IDL users,

>

>> I cannot find the SIGN function in IDL procedures, but one in

>> Solarsoft ssw/maths/ SIGN which occupy the name, but different

>> purpose(sign(a)*b). so I wrote the SIGNOF() function which is to get

>> the sign of a number or array,

>

>> Hopefully I am not repeating someone' work! you are welcome to

>> comments!

>

>> return, fix(abs(input)/input)

>

> IDL> input=0 & help, fix(abs(input)/input)

> <Expression> INT = 0

> % Program caused arithmetic error: Integer divide by 0

>

> I think SIGNOF() should not cause an arithmetic error for finite numbers.

>

> regards,

> lajos

This is expected in my algorithm, as the sign of 0 is considered to be 0. although there is an error in the IDL language, however $0/0=0$, is still true. the power of this in array calculation

```
IDL> a=[[1,0],[-1,0]]
```

```
IDL> print,signof(a)
```

```
1 0
```

```
-1 0
```

Ding Yuan
