Subject: Should IDL throw a warning in this case?
Posted by Fabzou on Wed, 06 Jul 2011 15:00:40 GMT
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Hi IDLers,

Just a thought about the last 10 minutes I lost understanding why the MEAN() function was computing wrong values:

```
IDL> print, !VERSION
{ x86_64 linux unix linux 7.1.1 Aug 21 2009      64      64}
IDL> tk = FLTARR(150,150,27,13, /NOZERO)
IDL> tc = tk - 273.15
IDL> print, min(tk-tc), max(tk-tc)
      273.150      273.150
```

everything OK, until:

```
IDL> print, mean(tk-tc)
      267.597
```

Oh my god, how is this even possible???? Am I getting crazy?

And then, after 5 minutes and a coffee break:

```
IDL> print, mean(tk-tc, /DOUBLE)
       273.14999
```

Uf, thank god I'm not crazy.

My feeling would say: IDL should throw a warning when you are manipulating too big numbers (in my case: too big arrays) with IDL built-in functions.

However, you IDL experts may not think so. What would be the reasons for not throwing a warning? Thanks!

Fabien