Subject: Should SORT(Undefined) give an error message?
Posted by wlandsman on Wed, 13 Apr 2016 17:28:09 GMT

Currently one can SORT() an undefined variable without getting an error message

IDL> sort(undefined)
    0

Certainly, the current result is inconsistent with the documentation:

"The result is always a vector of integer type with the same number of elements as Array." since in this case Array has 0 elements.

I think one should get an error message the same way one does with sqrt(undefined) or max(undefined)

In my case, the current behavior slowed down my debugging because I was using the sort index of Vector A to sort another vector B.   Vector A was mistakenly undefined but Vector B was valid.   Therefore, B[SORT(A)] was also valid, and the program happily proceeded.   --Wayne