Subject: Some IDL_Number documentation quirks
Posted by wlandsman on Fri, 02 Dec 2016 19:14:50 GMT

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A few quirks in the IDL documentation for IDL_Number

http://www.harrisgeospatial.com/docs/IDL_Number.html

1. The example for IDL_Number::Median method reads
****
Print the median value of a number:

num = -24601

PRINT, num.Median( )

IDL prints:

24601
****
Huh?   The median of a negative scalar is its absolute value?   I then realized that this example
is probably an unfinished copy/paste from the IDL_Number:Signum method. But

2. The example for IDL Number::Signum is incorrect

****
Print the signum value of a number:

num = -24601

PRINT, num.Signum( )

IDL prints:

24601
****
This is closer but still incorrect.   The value of num.signum() should be -1 (the sign of the number).

3. The documentation of IDL_Number::Total is incomplete.

****
Arguments

None.
Keywords

None.
****

But in fact, although not documented, the dimension argument and five keywords available to the TOTAL() function are also available to IDL_Number::Total.   For example

```
IDL> a = indgen(3,3)
IDL> a
     0    1    2
     3    4    5
     6    7    8
IDL> a.total(1,/integer)
           3               12               21
```