
Subject: Re: SIGMA routine availability and status ?
Posted by [thompson](#) on Sat, 11 Feb 1995 18:02:55 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

caillat@mesiou.obspm.fr (Michel Caillat - 45 07 76 35) writes:

> Could someone help me about the function SIGMA ? The problem
> is the following :
> We have IDL 3.5.1 installed on two IBM RS6000 workstations and
> one DEC ALPHA/OSF. Upon invocation of SIGMA, the ALPHA/OSF IDL version
> works correctly, while on the IBM the routine SIGMA is said to be unknown !
> Another strange thing is that on those two platforms the routine SIGMA is
> presented as a userlib component while it seems not exist on each platforms
> any .pro file containing a definition for the SIGMA function.

Being the original author of a routine called SIGMA which was in the user library for a long time, I will attempt to answer your question.

SIGMA was a procedure file that used to exist in the IDL user library. Checking our copy of 3.5.1 on our Alpha/OSF system, I note that SIGMA no longer exists in the user library, although it's still referred to in the online help.

It's possible that you have different libraries installed on your different machines. For example, SIGMA can be found in the Astronomy User's Library, if you're using that. <URL:ftp://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/pro/math/>

One problem with SIGMA is that it using a different numbering scheme for the dimensions than is used in routines such as TOTAL. I.e., it uses 0 to N-1 instead of 1-N That's because it's so old, written before IDL did all the things it does today. If you do use SIGMA, you may want to rewrite it to use TOTAL instead of AVG, and to use the numbering scheme that TOTAL uses.

Bill Thompson
