

A few quirks in the IDL documentation for IDL\_Number

[http://www.harrisgeospatial.com/docs/IDL\\_Number.html](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
```

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Subject: Re: Some IDL\_Number documentation quirks  
Posted by [chris\\_torrence@NOSPAM](mailto:chris_torrence@NOSPAM) on Wed, 07 Dec 2016 22:17:14 GMT  
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On Friday, December 2, 2016 at 12:14:52 PM UTC-7, wlandsman wrote:

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```

Whoops, my bad. Thanks Wayne for catching all of these. They'll be fixed in IDL Next (not 8.6).  
You can also use the Dimension argument to the IDL\_Number::Product method.

Cheers,

Chris

Harris Geospatial Solutions

Subject: Re: Some IDL\_Number documentation quirks  
Posted by [penteado](#) on Thu, 08 Dec 2016 00:36:16 GMT  
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There were also some problems in the documentation for BitGet and BitSet, which Wayne and me  
talked about in an earlier thread:

[https://groups.google.com/d/msg/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/bM6il\\_7\\_Y1mE/f2S0WkJ7AwAJ](https://groups.google.com/d/msg/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/bM6il_7_Y1mE/f2S0WkJ7AwAJ)

On Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 2:17:16 PM UTC-8, Chris Torrence wrote:

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