
Subject: Re: statistics on large arrays

Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Tue, 23 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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Steve Carothers wrote:

>
> Is there a limit to how large an array can be when finding the average or
> stdev of the entire array? I have an array of about 630,000 elements. When
> I try to find the average, the result is "NaNQ".
>
> Steve

One thing you may want to try is to explicitly use a double formatted array to overcome this problem (although you may then approach your memory limits ...). Apparently, MEAN has a /DOUBLE keyword. Does it help?

```
IDL> a=findgen(20)
IDL> print,mean(a) & help,mean(a)
% Compiled module: MEAN.
    9.50000
<Expression>  FLOAT   =    9.50000
IDL> a=dindgen(20)
IDL> print,mean(a) & help,mean(a)
    9.5000000
<Expression>  DOUBLE  =    9.5000000
```

Regards,
Martin.

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Subject: Re: statistics on large arrays

Posted by [korpela](#) on Wed, 24 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT

In article <dcDJ2.929\$Rd5.1323@news.flash.net>,
Steve Carothers <onav1@flash.net> wrote:
> Is there a limit to how large an array can be when finding the average or
> stdev of the entire array? I have an array of about 630,000 elements. When
> I try to find the average, the result is "NaNQ".

Are all of the values in the array defined values (i.e. not Inf or NaN)?
An Inf or a NaN in an array will cause the average to be NaN.

Eric

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Eric Korpela | An object at rest can never be
korpela@ssl.berkeley.edu | stopped.
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