

### [7.30] *sign()* function is not compatible with other programming languages

Most programming languages have a *sign()* function, that returns 1 if the argument is greater than or equal to zero, and -1 if the argument is less than zero. The 89/92+ *sign()* function *does not* operate like this. Instead, the 89/92+ *sign()* function returns -1 if the argument is less than zero, 1 if the argument is greater than zero, and the expression 'sign(0)' if the argument is zero. While perhaps mathematically rigorous, this is often not the most useful interpretation. This *sgn()* function returns 1 when the argument is zero:

```
sgn(x)
Func
when(x=0,1,sign(x))
EndFunc
```