Subject: Re: Unknown #INFO
Posted by Martin Schultz on Thu, 12 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT
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Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan wrote:

> In article <72d8sr$9at$1@agate.berkeley.edu>
> korpela@albert.ssl.berkeley.edu (Eric J. Korpela) writes:
>
> [...]

Oh yeah, I love it!

IDL> print,!version
{ mipseb IRIX unix 5.1.1 Jul 20 1998}
IDL> print,!values
{ inf nan0x2000000 inf nan0x70000000}

> IDL> print,float(['INF','Inf','NaN','nanq'])

IDL> print,float(['INF','Inf','NaN','nanq'])
% Type conversion error: Unable to convert given STRING to Float.
% Detected at: $MAIN$
% Type conversion error: Unable to convert given STRING to Float.
% Detected at: $MAIN$
% Type conversion error: Unable to convert given STRING to Float.
% Detected at: $MAIN$
% Type conversion error: Unable to convert given STRING to Float.
% Detected at: $MAIN$
0.00000 0.00000 0.00000 0.00000

"All [systems] are equal, but some are more equal than others."
(G.Orwell)

BTW: I would say that it is alright for IDL to pick up the sign in
-float('Inf'). That's what people write below integrals all the time ;-)
So at least in theory you could test
for -Inf and replace it by the smallest (largest negative) number that
your system represents. But, I realize that
symbolic algebra seems rather mathematica's realm, and an average IDLer
would rather only have to test for
value eq !values.Inf instead of abs(value) ...

So long,
Martin.

PS: Hope they fixed this inconsistency across all platforms in 5.2

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