Subject: Re: QROMB crashes IDL
Posted by steinh on Mon, 23 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT

In article <365862CE.E87869EF@io.harvard.edu> Martin Schultz
<mgs@io.harvard.edu> writes:

> Kjetil Kjernsmo wrote:
>
>> Dear all!
>>
>> I have an integral that I want to check if it converges or diverges,
>> and of course, if it converges, I want the value. They say it must be
>> evaluated numerically, so I figured I would try to solve it in IDL,
>> and see what happens.
>>
>> Unfortunately, it seems that when the integral diverges, IDL crashes
>> with the following message:
>>
>> % Program caused arithmetic error: Floating illegal operand
>> Floating exception
>>
>> [... rest snipped]

[...]

> I wouldn't call this a crash. Th eerror message that you get
> is simply the warning of IDL that it did encounter what you asked
> for : a NaN or Inf value! Check out the online help section on
> "math errors" to learn how to control them.

The problem is that the idl session aborts. That is, on an
{ alpha OSF unix 5.1.1 Jul 20 1998}, IDL crashes (as in
going back to the shell prompt) if the function to be
integrated returns a NaNQ... Does this happen on most
platforms? Although it could be debated whether this is a
bug (I wouldn't expect *sensible* results from a
nonsensical intregral :-), it's certainly not what you'd
expect from IDL.

Bearing in mind that the qromb is a Num. Recipes routine,
though, I wouldn't expect RSI to "fix" it...

Regards,

Stein Vidar