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Subject: Re: QROMB crashes IDL

Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Sun, 22 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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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]

> Kjetil

> --

> Kjetil Kjernsmo

> Graduate astronomy-student                      Problems worthy of attack

> University of Oslo, Norway                      Prove their worth by hitting back

> E-mail: [kjetikj@astro.uio.no](mailto:kjetikj@astro.uio.no)                      - Piet Hein

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I wouldn't call this a crash. The error 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 other idea is to test the validity of the expression with the `finite()` function before actually evaluating it. ... and then there is always the good old way of looking at the expression and testing for if (`x ne 0.`) then `z=1/x` etc. ;-)

Regards,  
Martin.

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