
Subject: Re: NaN in pv-wave

Posted by [Dr. Dirk Engelbart](#) on Thu, 25 Feb 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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jlh wrote:

>

> Hi,

>

> In IDL the expression for NaN (Not a Number) is :

> !values.f_nan. Does anyone know if there is an equivalent expression

> in pvwave ?

>

> Thanks,

>

> Jacob

Jacob,

Trying to do various translation tasks between WAVE and IDL, I recently had the same question as you. The answer is simple as you will see below. You simply need to have the IMSL mathematics package being standard in PV-WAVE Advantage. This package includes the function MACHINE() which can be used as follows:

```
values = MACHINE(/Float)
```

```
; Get the single-precision, floating-point machine constants. This call  
supplies a ;structure whose elements might be inspected ba calling  
values using the /STRUCTURE keyword. One of the elements of values will  
then be "values.nan"!
```

```
info,values,/STRUCTURE
```

```
; As an example for the data assignment of variables look at the  
following line which assigns a 3-element vector "a" using the intended  
"NaN" as well as additionally negative-infinite values.
```

```
a = [values.nan,3.0,values.neg_inf]
```

This means in PV-WAVE you can use exactly the same function as in IDL "`!values.f_nan`" by calling the function "`values.nan`".

That's it.

Regards,

DIRK.

