Subject: Re: divide by zero problems
Posted by korpela on Sat, 15 May 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <bowman-1405991756240001@tl6-218-141.tca.net>,
Kenneth P. Bowman <bowman@null.tamu.edu> wrote:
>>    IDL> PRINT, !VALUES.F_NAN EQ !VALUES.F_NAN
>>        1
>>    % Program caused arithmetic error: Floating illegal operand
>
> I thought that by definition NaNs are not a number and hence not equal to
> *anything* else.  Thus the FINITE function.

That's the point. In IEEE math there is no need for a FINITE function.
X eq X is enough to test for NaN.  X EQ !Values.F_NAN should always return
0.  Even if X is NaN. Period.  Excamation point!

If RSI thinks it's not important that IDL be IEEE compliant, they're wrong.
I may consider that bit of non-portability/non-compliance a good reason not
to code for IDL under ANY platform.

Eric

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Eric Korpela                   | An object at rest can never be
korpela@ssl.berkeley.edu       | stopped.
<a href="http://setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu/~korpela">Click for home page.</a>