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Subject: Re: Bad data in structure (NaN HowTo?)

Posted by [Randall Skelton](#) on Wed, 29 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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> Randall, is it true that you are filling the -12345 values within your  
> CALL\_EXTERNAL procedure? If so, then perhaps you can try the second  
> thing I suggested. Namely, in IDL create whatever "null" variables  
> you want, either NaN or whatever. Then pass those variables into the  
> CALL\_EXTERNAL procedure.

This is exactly what I ended up doing... Eventually I did learn that you can also do 'A = 0.f/0.f' in C (works with gcc compiler) which gets interpreted by IDL as NaN but this seemed somewhat inelegant and probably wouldn't work on different machines/platforms/compilers. With regard to an NaN for an 'int' number I re-read my first programming text to convince myself that NaN was truly a floating point arithmetic concept. The moral of the story being 'one should never throw away old textbooks...'

Thanks to all who offered help and advice!

Randall

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