
Subject: Turning off math error checking for a code block

Posted by [k-bowman](#) on Thu, 17 Jan 2002 16:26:07 GMT

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I have an array x that is likely to have missing values in it, indicated by NaN's. I would like to search the array for values less than x_min. Because of the NaN's, WHERE generates a floating point error, e.g.,

```
IDL> print, x
      0.00000      NaN      2.00000      3.00000
IDL> print, where(x lt 2.0)
      0
% Program caused arithmetic error: Floating illegal operand
```

As best I understand the interaction between !EXCEPT and CHECK_MATH, in order to suppress this error message, while still checking errors elsewhere in the code, I must do the following:

```
error    = CHECK_MATH(/PRINT)      ;If any errors have occurred, print
save_except = !EXCEPT            ;Save current exception flag
!EXCEPT = 0                      ;Set exception flag to 0
i         = WHERE(x LT x_min, ni)   ;Find all x < x_min
error     = CHECK_MATH()           ;Clear accumulated error status
!EXCEPT = save_except            ;Restore exception flag
```

Am I making this harder than it needs to be?

Ken
