Subject: Re: Incorrect behavior of /NAN
Posted by Paul van Delst on Thu, 04 Apr 2002 19:38:51 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Jaco van Gorkom wrote:
>
> "Paul van Delst" <paul.vandelst@noaa.gov> wrote in message
> news:3CAC9914.B52D1669@noaa.gov...
>> Kenneth Bowman wrote:
>>> ....
>>> IDL> print, mean([a, a], /nan)
>>>        NaN
>>
>> I think the last result *here* is wrong :o)  Shouldn't it be 1.0? What is
> MEAN in this case
>> but:
>>
>> total([a,a],/NAN) / n_elements(non-nan values only)
>>
>> Both the numerator and denominator are 0.
>
> So you mean that 0 / 0 = 1.0 ? Or 0. / 0. = 1.0 ?
> In any case, IDL seems to disagree with you here:  :-)
>
> IDL> print, 0./0.
> -NaN
> % Program caused arithmetic error: Floating illegal operand
>
> IDL> print, 0/0
> 0
> % Program caused arithmetic error: Integer divide by 0
>

Maybe a holistic division operator is required in these sorts of cases. :o)

paulv

--
Paul van Delst          Religious and cultural
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP          purity is a fundamentalist
Ph: (301)763-8000 x7274    fantasy
Fax:(301)763-8545          V.S.Naipaul