
Subject: Re: Testing for NODATA presence in a dataset
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 21 Dec 2002 22:20:19 GMT
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Jonathan Greenberg (greenberg@ucdavis.edu) writes:

```
> I'm having a problem testing for whether an entry in an array is NAN --
> doing something like:
>
> If (value EQ !VALUES.F_NAN) then begin
>   print,'Not a number'
> Endif else begin
>   print,'Is a number!'
> Endelse
>
> Will always return 'Is a number', even if I set:
> value = !VALUES.F_NAN
>
> What's going wrong with this?
```

The problem is that NAN is ... well, not a number.
Thus, you can't use it in expressions that
require a number. (Think of it as a mathematical
Catch-22, if you like.)

The proper way to write this code is like this:

```
If Finite(value) EQ 0 then begin
  print,'Not a number'
Endif else begin
  print,'Is a number!'
Endelse
```

Cheers,

David

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