
Subject: Re: Testing for NODATA presence in a dataset

Posted by [tam](#) on Fri, 03 Jan 2003 14:10:44 GMT

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With regard to the discussion of the behavior of NaNs
especially on Windows machines:

I got a very nice, unofficial, response from someone at RSI indicating that they agreed in principle the behavior should be IEEE 754 compliant, but that behavior is not currently supported by the Microsoft compilers used in building IDL for Windows. With these compilers 'proper' behavior would incur an unacceptable performance penalty. We had a short dialog and in the process found out that the latest versions of the Visual C++ compiler indicate that Microsoft has made a change in the way it handles NaNs so that arithmetic comparisons are IEEE 754 compliant. If this turns out to be true there a good chance that in the future the behavior of the Windows and Unix versions of IDL will be consistent.

Of course this is all non-official, but I was very impressed by the responsiveness of RSI. It seems clear that they are both aware of this issue and looking to see how it can be resolved without compromising IDL performance.

Regards,
Tom McGlynn
