
Subject: Re: array handling

Posted by news.qwest.net on Mon, 08 Jan 2007 17:43:34 GMT

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"Brian Larsen" <balarsen@gmail.com> wrote in message
news:1168100109.828745.131590@11g2000cwr.googlegroups.com...
> Something I have always wondered is the difference between using
> finite() and just using ne?
>
> As an example:
> IDL> array = [1.0, 2.0, !Values.F_NAN, 4.0, !Values.F_NAN]
> IDL> Print, Where(NOT Float(Finite(array)))
> 2 4
> IDL> print, where(array ne array)
> 2 4
>
> What is the fundamental difference here? Speed? Style? or something
> else entirely?
>
> Cheers,
>
> Brian

while where(array ne array) is clever, short, and possibly fast
one should note (from IDL help):

"On Windows, using relational operators such as EQ and NE
with the values infinity or NaN (Not a Number) causes an "illegal operand"
error"

Programmers will generally avoid depending on a result that flags an error,
and is not strictly defined in the language. The results may change in
different versions
of IDL, and perhaps on different operating systems. Who knows, in version 7,
IDL may
decide to make nan eq nan return 1.

Cheers,
bob
