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Subject: NaNs all over the place

Posted by [Mort Canty](#) on Tue, 17 Jul 2007 11:01:04 GMT

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OK this one is embarrassing, but here goes:

I've written a neural network routine in IDL which, on my laptop (XP IDL 6.3) chugs along just fine. On my desktop (same OS, same IDL version) it chugs along fine, too, but then (suddenly) slows down. Setting breakpoints, I find that the slowdown is due to the fact that it's breeding NaNs. Since IDL doesn't throw an exception, I haven't yet found out what's going on. Can I make IDL tell me the code line at which the first undefined operation generating a NaN occurs, or do I have to sprinkle the code with IF ~FINITE(A) - type statements?

I had a similar experience long ago with Delphi (object Pascal) and it turned out that I was making (what else?) a pointer error. On one machine it didn't overwrite anything important, on the other it did and crashed. Is this kind of behavior even possible in IDL, i.e., can pointer errors generate NaNs in one memory configuration and not in another? Or should I buy a new desktop?

Any tips would be highly appreciated.

Mort

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