Subject: Re: Philosophical Question about NAN
Posted by wlandsman on Mon, 17 Nov 2008 15:54:44 GMT
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On Nov 17, 9:58 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
> Folks,
>
> I've had a couple of run-ins lately with NANs and I wonder
> why routines like TOTAL and MEAN don't have the NAN keyword
> set to 1 by default. Why does the user have to set it?

I agree with the sentiment but also note that always setting /NAN
incurs a non-trivial performance penalty, e.g.

```
 IDL> a = randomn(seed,10000,2000)
 IDL> t = systime(1) & b = total(a) & print,systime(1)-t
      0.25451803
 IDL> t = systime(1) & b = total(a,/nan) & print,systime(1)-t
      0.35278893
```

I've thought at times that arrays should carry a hidden bit saying
whether or not they include NaN values, but this introduces other
overhead problems.

--Wayne