
Subject: Re: More on Exp bugs
Posted by [f055](#) on Wed, 18 Dec 1996 08:00:00 GMT
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-But I didn't like the way I could segfault IDL with just exp() calls.
-(By the way, I STILL can. On a DEC 3000/500 with exp(-90.0) followed by
-exp(-9000.0). (Single precision.) Can anyone else do this?)

Doesn't happen on a DEC 3000/600 with IDL 4.0.

-I realise that this is a MAJOR stir, but I was wondering what people's views
-are on IDL's "NaN" and "Infinity" support?
-Personally: I haven't yet implemented "Infinity" in my IDL programs,
-and I haven't used "NaN" much at all. I like the idea of "NaN", but I
-started many of my programs before it was around in IDL, and so I found other
-ways to cope with "bad values" and the like.

NaN is, I think, a good improvement in dealing with missing data values - but
perhaps only because the previous support was so patchy. But remaining
problems with it are:

- 1) You can't use it to indicate missing values in integer variables (a
problem if part of a calculation involves integers, even if the start and end
points do not).
- 2) Many routines still don't have an option to ignore missing values.
- 3) You cannot write out and read back in NaN data when using ASCII data files.

-I can't be bothered with FP underflows (just give me 0).

Hear hear.

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