Subject: Re: More on Exp bugs
Posted by thompson on Mon, 16 Dec 1996 08:00:00 GMT
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Peter Mason <peterm@demsyd.syd.dem.csiro.au> writes:

> On 11 Dec 1996, David Siskind wrote:

> 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?)

I tried this on a DEC 3000/400 running OSF and IDL v4.0.1, and it did not give a segmentation fault.

> I realise that this is a MAJOR stir, but I was wondering what people's views
> are on IDL's "NaN" and "Infinity" support?

Because our software must also support platforms that do not use IEEE floating point notation, specifically VMS, we do not use any IEEE-specific features. When we read in data files containing NaN values, e.g. from FITS files, we convert them to a normal number representing bad pixels.

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

I agree that the error messages about floating underflows is quite a pain. It has caused great confusion among users who are worried that it means that the software is now broken, when in fact it's still working normally.

William Thompson