
Subject: Re: Filtering out NaNs
Posted by [thompson](#) on Thu, 20 Mar 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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sritcey@is.dal.ca (Stephen Ritcey) writes:

> What exactly does FINITE do on IDL?

In IDL, the FINITE function does filter out both NaN values and plus and minus infinity.

Personally, I don't like to write software that depends on IEEE arithmetic, because it makes the software somewhat less portable. There's probably only one platform that IDL runs on that doesn't use IEEE floating point numbers, and that's VMS (on either VAX or AXP). However, it's still critical for us to support VMS. Thus, when an XDR-formatted file is read containing NaN values, then those pixels are converted to an ordinary number that is used to signal missing data, and vice-versa. The question of how to handle +/-Inf has never arisen.

Bill Thompson
