
Subject: strange GT and LT behavior

Posted by [markb77](#) on Mon, 20 Oct 2014 15:41:50 GMT

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I've encountered a bizarre situation where IDL thinks that 0 is less than a negative number. Can anyone rationalize this? Is it really not ok to compare the value of an unsigned integer with a signed integer? Shouldn't the compiler handle this?

test case:

```
pro test_gt_lt
```

```
    a = ulong64(0)
```

```
    b = long(100)
```

```
    if (a lt b) then begin
```

```
        print, 'ZERO IS LESS THAN 100'
```

```
    endif else begin
```

```
        print, 'ZERO IS GREATER THAN 100'
```

```
    endelse
```

```
    c = ulong64(0)
```

```
    d = long(-100)
```

```
    if (c lt d) then begin
```

```
        print, 'ZERO IS LESS THAN -100'
```

```
    endif else begin
```

```
        print, 'ZERO IS GREATER THAN -100'
```

```
    endelse
```

```
end
```

OUTPUT:

ZERO IS LESS THAN 100

ZERO IS LESS THAN -100

IDL> print, !version

{ x86_64 Win32 Windows Microsoft Windows 8.3 Nov 15 2013 64 64}

thanks
Mark
