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Subject: Re: Odd behavior with NaNs

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Tue, 09 Aug 2016 23:42:38 GMT

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On Tuesday, August 9, 2016 at 12:28:40 PM UTC-4, whdaffer wrote:

> At least, I think it's odd.

>

>

> IDL> print,sqrt(!values.f\_nan>0.0)

> 0.00000

> % Program caused arithmetic error: Floating illegal operand

> IDL>

>

> -- while --

>

> IDL> print,sqrt(!values.f\_nan)

> NaN

>

> I was trying to protect against taking the sqrt of a negative number. I guess I could just remove the >0.0 and live with

>

> DL> print,sqrt(-1)

> -NaN

> % Program caused arithmetic error: Floating illegal operand

>

> whenever there are negative numbers in my data.

>

> What does the community think? Bug? Feature?

>

> whd

I'd usually use WHERE() to protect against that kind of input range issue. But you're right, it's strange that this happens. It's also documented to be platform-dependent!

[http://www.harrisgeospatial.com/docs/Minimum\\_and\\_Maximum\\_Open\\_r.html](http://www.harrisgeospatial.com/docs/Minimum_and_Maximum_Open_r.html)

Craig

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