
Subject: Divide By Zero error

Posted by [Logan Lindquist](#) on Tue, 06 Nov 2001 18:10:47 GMT

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```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.0 Transitional//EN">
<HTML><HEAD>
<META http-equiv=Content-Type content="text/html; charset=iso-8859-1">
<META content="MSHTML 6.00.2600.0" name=GENERATOR>
<STYLE></STYLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY bgColor=#ffffff>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2>I got another one for all you math
whiz's!</FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2></FONT>&nbsp;</DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2>Here is the error</FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2>*****</FONT></DIV><FONT size=1>
<DIV>IDL&gt; .STEP</DIV>
<DIV>% Program caused arithmetic error: Floating divide by 0</DIV>
<DIV>% Program caused arithmetic error: Floating illegal operand</DIV>
<DIV>&nbsp;</DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2>&nbsp;</FONT>Caused by second statement [log]</FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2>*****</FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2>f = fft(tempfft, -1)</FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2>power = -alog10(double(f))</FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2></FONT>&nbsp;</DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2></FONT>&nbsp;</DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2>I tried a bunch of different things trying to
isolate the error and get it to stop. That is why the code looks that way and
not all nice and compact.&nbsp;</FONT>I don't understand exactly why it's giving me
invalid numbers and so this is why I shall include the output data:</FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2></FONT>&nbsp;</DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2>print, f</FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2>*****</FONT></DIV><FONT size=1>
<DIV>( 55.0313, 0.000000)( 0.378331, 1.10309)( -0.281250, 0.312500)( -0.284581,
0.134343)( -0.281250, 0.000000)( -0.284581, -0.134343)</DIV>
<DIV>( -0.281250, -0.312500)( 0.378331, -1.10309)</DIV>
<DIV>( 0.467505, 0.265950)( 0.117743, -0.359700)( 0.0514515, -0.0800206)(
0.0514515, -0.0175206)( 0.0643956, -0.00457645)( 0.0735485, 0.00457646)</DIV>
<DIV>( 0.0643956, 0.0396177)( 0.139840, 0.0266735)</DIV>
<DIV>( -0.234375, 0.265625)( 0.0312500, -0.0845971)( -0.0156250, -0.0156250)(
-0.0129442, -0.0533471)( 0.0156250, -0.0468750)( 0.0312500, -0.0404029)</DIV>
<DIV>( -0.0156250, -0.0156250)( 0.0754442, -0.00915291)</DIV>
<DIV>( -0.217505, 0.109700)( 0.0735485, -0.0487706)( -0.00189563, 0.0708677)(
0.00725728, -0.0159502)( -0.00189563, 0.0266735)( -0.0148398, -0.00457646)</DIV>
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-0.00647209, 0.0156250)( 0.000000, 0.000000)( -0.00647209, -0.0156250)</DIV>
<DIV>( 0.000000, 0.000000)( 0.0377221, 0.0156250)</DIV>
```

<DIV>(-0.217505, -0.109700)(0.0514515, 0.0266735)(0.0735485, -0.0137294)(
-0.0148398, 0.00457646)(-0.00189563, -0.0266735)(0.00725728, 0.0159502)</DIV>
<DIV>(-0.00189563, -0.0708677)(0.0735485, 0.0487706)</DIV>
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0.0312500, 0.0404029)(0.0156250, 0.0468750)(-0.0129442, 0.0533471)</DIV>
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<DIV>(0.0514515, 0.0800206)(0.117743, 0.359700)</DIV>
<DIV> </DIV>
<DIV>print, power</DIV>
<DIV>*****</DIV>
<DIV>IDL> print, power</DIV>
<DIV>-1.7406094 0.42212772 NaN NaN NaN NaN NaN 0.42212772</DIV>
<DIV>0.33021387 0.92906595 1.2886023 1.2886023 1.1911436 1.1334259 1.1911436
0.85436921</DIV>
<DIV>NaN 1.5051500 NaN NaN 1.8061800 1.5051500 NaN 1.1223743</DIV>
<DIV>NaN 1.1334259 NaN 2.1392261 NaN NaN 1.1334259 1.2886024</DIV>
<DIV>NaN 1.4234043 Infinity NaN Infinity NaN Infinity 1.4234043</DIV>
<DIV>NaN 1.2886024 1.1334259 NaN NaN 2.1392261 NaN 1.1334259</DIV>
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<DIV>0.33021387 0.85436921 1.1911436 1.1334259 1.1911436 1.2886023 1.2886023
0.92906595</DIV>
<DIV> </DIV>
<DIV> </DIV>
<DIV>What is this NaN business and why am I getting
Infinity? Arg :)</DIV>
<DIV> </DIV>
<DIV>Thanks to the math geeks,</DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial
size=2>Logan</DIV></BODY> </HTML>

Subject: Re: Divide By Zero error

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Mon, 12 Nov 2001 23:03:34 GMT

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Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan <shaugan@esa.nascom.nasa.gov> writes:

> Nigel Wade <nmw@ion.le.ac.uk> writes:

>

>> Paul Manusiu wrote:

>>

>>> What is the log of zero ??

>>>

>>> Logan Lindquist wrote:

>>>

>>> What is this NaN

```
>>>> business and why am I getting Infinity?
>>
>> Also, what is the log of a negative number?
>>
>> --
>> -----
>> Nigel Wade, System Administrator, Space Plasma Physics Group
>
> Hey, someone else in the Space Plasma Physics dept might tell you
> that alog(-1) should return complex(0,+/-!PI) !
>
>           $e^{-i\pi} + 1 = 0$ 
```

Which agrees with the result of IDL, allowing for round-off errors:

```
IDL> print, exp(-dcomplex(0,!dpi)) + 1d
(    0.0000000, -1.2246064e-16)
```

Craig

```
--
-----
Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D.      EMAIL:  craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response
-----
```
