
Subject: NaN's in TOTAL, etc.

Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Fri, 22 Mar 2002 22:30:46 GMT

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Has anyone noticed the following behavior?

```
IDL> x = findgen(3,3)
IDL> x[1,0] = !values.f_nan
IDL> x[2,*] = !values.f_nan
IDL> print, x
    0.00000      NaN      NaN
    3.00000     4.00000      NaN
    6.00000     7.00000      NaN
IDL> print, total(x, 2)
    9.00000      NaN      NaN
IDL> print, total(x, 2, /nan)
    9.00000     11.0000    0.00000
```

^^^^^^

Using /NAN, the sum of all NaN's is 0.0!

Wouldn't it make more sense if the result were NaN? At a minimum, this makes /NAN far less useful.

Ken
