
Subject: Re: NaN problems

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 21 Apr 2005 13:42:40 GMT

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David Lopez Pons writes:

```
> I have a problem detecting NaN values. When I write:
>
> err=findgen(10)-5
> res=err^2.5
> print,res
>
>   NaN      NaN      NaN      NaN      NaN
> 0.00000  1.00000  5.65685  15.5885  32.0000
>
> Until here everything is OK, but now i want to look for Nan values in my
> result so I write:
>
> print,where(res EQ !values.f_nan)
>      -1
>
> I can see the NaN values in res. Why they are not equal to !values.f_nan?
```

Because, uh, NANs are **not** numbers:

http://www.dfanning.com/math_tips/nans.html

Cheers,

David

--

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Subject: Re: NaN problems

Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Thu, 21 Apr 2005 13:43:57 GMT

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use the finite() function

Subject: Re: NaN problems

Posted by [Y.T.](#) on Sat, 23 Apr 2005 02:43:44 GMT

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> http://www.dfanning.com/math_tips/nans.html

Pretty cool page.

;)

I don't have access to IDL on a win-box, but I have a (potentially stupid) question: On that page of yours where you write

```
IDL> print, array ne array
      0  0  0  0  0
```

have you tried the converse, i.e.

```
IDL> print, array eq array
```

?

I am asking since, while it is true that a NaN is not equal to a NaN it does not seem to follow (to my wrinkled brain) that a NaN is necessarily UNEqual to a NaN.

In your version you test for the latter, and I'm kinda curious what would happen if you tried the former...

cordially

Y.T.

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Remove YourClothes before you email me.
