
Subject: Comparison operators and floating-point errors
Posted by [MarioIncandenza](#) on Mon, 19 Apr 2010 18:31:44 GMT
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```
IDL> nan=1/0.0
% Program caused arithmetic error: Floating divide by 0
IDL> print, -0.1 > nan
      Inf
IDL> print, -0.1 < nan
      -0.100000
IDL> print, 1 gt nan
      0
IDL> print, 1 lt nan
      1
```

I thought the rule was "Any calculation involving a NaN will produce NaN."

Has it been this way since the dawn of time? I'm sure it has.

I have found a few uses for NaN in IDL over the years, and now I have to come up with new ones.

For instance (the one that led me to track this down), I use NaN to exclude areas from contour plots. There are other ways, but none quite as simple and flexible.
