
Subject: VALUE_LOCATE and NaNs

Posted by [Fabzi](#) on Thu, 25 Oct 2012 09:14:46 GMT

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Dear IDLers,

I am quite an adept of using NaNs as missing values for my data, because many IDL routines go along with them. However, some of the routines are not really documented about how they handle NaNs.

See the following example:

```
IDL> data = FINDGEN(10) & data[0] = !VALUES.F_NAN
IDL> p = VALUE_LOCATE(FINDGEN(10), data) & print, p[0]
      -1
IDL> p = VALUE_LOCATE(INDGEN(10), data) & print, p[0]
      0
% Program caused arithmetic error: Floating illegal operand
```

Which is quite dangerous! If I didn't debug my code to find the origin of the Floating illegal operand warning, value_locate's output would be wrong.

Someone else than me thinking of this as a bug?

Thanks,

Fab
