

## Re: ELF detector

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.design/2004-09/6658.html>

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**From:** John Woodgate ([jmw\\_at\\_jmwa.demon.contraspam.yuk](mailto:jmw_at_jmwa.demon.contraspam.yuk))

**Date:** 09/26/04

Date: Sun, 26 Sep 2004 09:38:15 +0100

I read in sci.electronics.design that Ed Price <edprice@cox.net> wrote (in <q0v5d.74623\$9Y5.54225@fed1read02>) about 'ELF detector', on Sun, 26 Sep 2004:

>

> "John Woodgate" <[jmw@jmwa.demon.contraspam.yuk](mailto:jmw@jmwa.demon.contraspam.yuk)> wrote in message  
> news:bkJTvRCl5mVBFwXa@jmwa.demon.co.uk...

>> I read in sci.electronics.design that Ken Smith

>> <[kensmith@green.rahul.net](mailto:kensmith@green.rahul.net)> wrote (in <cj4o62\$g7l\$8@blue.rahul.net>)

>> about 'ELF detector', on Sat, 25 Sep 2004:

>>

>>> I doubt software can do it. You need to divide by zero. Most

>>> programmers have a hard time writing code that does that successfully.

>>

>> IF DIVISOR = 0, THEN RESULT = 1E+38 ELSE RESULT = DIVIDEND/DIVISOR

>>

>> It's the order in which you write it that matters. (;-)

>> --

>> Regards, John Woodgate, OOO – Own Opinions Only.

>> The good news is that nothing is compulsory.

>> The bad news is that everything is prohibited.

>> <http://www.jmwa.demon.co.uk> Also see <http://www.isce.org.uk>

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>

> Precisely, solved in Basic, circa 1968!

> Or in Fortran, even earlier!

> That's how coders solve those pesky little "special cases". <g>

>

There's a bit more to it. My pseudocode produces an extreme outlier result, which the user really ought to pick up. It does NOT produce an error message that stops the program. Of course it can be extended to produce a \*warning\*. Stopping the program for a recoverable error is, IMHO, really rather stupid.

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