

Re: ELF detector

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.equipment/2004-09/0368.html>

From: Spehro Pefhany (*speffSNIP_at_interlogDOTyou.knowwhat*)

Date: 09/26/04

Date: Sun, 26 Sep 2004 13:19:06 GMT

On Sun, 26 Sep 2004 09:38:15 +0100, the renowned John Woodgate
<jmw@jmwa.demon.contrasпам.yuk> wrote:

>I read in sci.electronics.design that Ed Price <edprice@cox.net> wrote
>(in <q0v5d.74623\$9Y5.54225@fedIread02>) about 'ELF detector', on Sun, 26
>Sep 2004:
>>
>>"John Woodgate" <jmw@jmwa.demon.contrasпам.yuk> wrote in message
>>news:bkJTvRC15mVBFwXa@jmwa.demon.co.uk...
>>>I read in sci.electronics.design that Ken Smith
>>> <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>
>>
>>
>>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.

Note that you've arbitrarily chosen to use a very large positive
number for the result, even if the dividend is negative. I prefer math

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that saturates in the appropriate direction. Sometimes, even with division by zero errors, you can get it right. The sign tends to matter quite a bit in control stuff.

Best regards,
Spehro Pefhany

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"it's the network..."

"The Journey is the reward"

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Info for manufacturers: <http://www.trexon.com>

Embedded software/hardware/analog Info for designers: <http://www.speff.com>