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Subject: Re: WRONG RESULTS WITH IDL

Posted by [Richard G. French](#) on Tue, 05 May 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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```
>> sin(12345678901.12345678901) = -03727 9004 9960 8007
```

```
>>
```

```
>> where IDL get:
```

```
>>
```

```
>> IDL> x = double(12345678901.12345678901)
```

\*\*\*\*\*^ This line converts a number with single precision to a double precision value, but it does not keep all of the digits listed. You need to make the number double precision explicitly by adding a D0 at the end:

```
x=12345678901.12345678901D0
```

If you print x instead of sin(x), you will see that you have not retained all of the listed digits of precision

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