
Subject: Re: Float procedure

Posted by [Alex Schuster](#) on Wed, 02 Dec 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Charlie Solomon wrote:

```
> Can anyone shed some light on how this byte array is converted into a
> floating point number?
> two_words = bytarr(4)
> two_words = [244, 232, 165, 64]
```

Caution! This statements creates an intarr(4). You could define two_words this way:

```
IDL> two_words = [244b, 232b, 165b, 64b]
```

```
> IDL> print, float(two_words, 0)
> 2.13062e-038
```

I get this result:

```
IDL> f = float( two_words, 0 )
IDL> print, f
-1.47457e+32
```

This still isn't the value you expect, because your PC uses another byte ordering scheme than my workstation. Changing this with the swap_endian routine corrects this:

```
IDL> print, swap_endian( f )
5.18469
```

Alex

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PGP Key available