
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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