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Subject: Re: Strange Bug with numeric double constants  
Posted by [thompson](#) on Mon, 22 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT  
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Alex Schuster <[alex@rosa.mpin-koeln.mpg.de](mailto:alex@rosa.mpin-koeln.mpg.de)> writes:

> Hi!

> I just experienced some weird IDL behaviour:

> IDL> help, 1.0d+2.0d

> help, 1.0d+2.0d

>           ^

> % Syntax error.

> IDL> help, 1d+2d

> help, 1d+2d

>           ^

> % Syntax error.

> Strange, isn't it? There's no problem with byte constants:

> IDL> help, 1b+2b

> <Expression>  BYTE     =   3

> An additional blank helps:

> IDL> help, 1d +2d

> <Expression>  DOUBLE  =     3.0000000

> I didn't try IDL 5.2, but it happened with 4.0 and 5.1 on Unix and

> Windows. I guess IDL expects an exponential notation like 1d0, and is

> confused by the nonnumeric plus character.

Wouldn't it be more proper to write these numbers as

IDL> help, 1.0d0+2.0d0

As others have pointed out, IDL is getting confused by putting the +2 immediately after the "d"--it thinks it's part of the exponent. I guess that IDL usually knows what you meant if you leave the exponent off, but not always as you found out.

Cheers,

