
Subject: Re: significant figures function?

Posted by [Med Bennett](#) on Tue, 27 Feb 2001 02:33:22 GMT

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Thanks Ben and Martin! I had already kluged together another solution using a routine I found using the search engine I found using <http://www.astro.washington.edu/deutsch/idl/htmlhelp/index.html> (very handy tool!) by searching for 'significant' called strnsignif.pro (<http://www.astro.washington.edu/deutsch-bin/getpro/library03.html?STRNSIGNIF>). Wrapping this with a loop and converting back to float did the trick. Less than perfect, but in the consulting biz, whatever can be found quickly beats an elegant solution!

Med

Martin Downing wrote:

```
> "Med Bennett" <mbennett@indra.com> wrote in message
> news:3A9ACD30.E0F3F5D9@indra.com...
>> Has anyone written a function that returns the input value or array with
>> a specified number of significant digits? I have lloked at the various
>> IDL libraries on the web but did not come up with what I'm after.
>> Thanks in advance for any pointers -
>>
>
> this should do it
>
> function fix_digits, num, digits
>   expon = 1.0
>   while num/expon gt 1 do expon = expon * 10
>   fix_val = num/expon
>   fstring = string(digits+2, digits, format = '("(f",i0.0,".",i0.0,")")')
>   reads, string(fix_val, format = fstring), fix_val
>   return, fix_val * expon
> end
>
>> print, fix_digits(!pi, 3)
>   3.14000
>
> Martin
>
> -----
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>
> Martin
