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Subject: Re: significant figures function?

Posted by [Martin Downing](#) on Tue, 27 Feb 2001 00:07:54 GMT

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"Med Bennett" <[mbennett@indra.com](mailto:mbennett@indra.com)> wrote in message

news:[3A9ACD30.E0F3F5D9@indra.com](mailto: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 looked 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

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