
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> 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
```

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