
Subject: Re: printing floats/integer

Posted by [Christopher W. O'Dell](#) on Thu, 08 Mar 2001 17:01:20 GMT

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This problem has been around about as long as computers I think. I used to have an old pascal routine that would tell you what format code you needed for a given number, assuming you wanted to see the whole number, but not anymore more than is necessary (for instance, 8.6). Has anyone written such a function for IDL?

You could probably piece together what you need using this function I just found on the IDL Libraries Browser at Washington (see below).

Good luck,
Chris

```
;-----  
function sigfig, range  
;  
;  
;+  
; NAME:  
;   SIGFIG  
;  
; PURPOSE:  
;   This function will return the number of significant figures in  
;   the value "range"  
;  
; CATEGORY:  
;   utilities  
;  
; CALLING SEQUENCE:  
;   result = sigfig(range)  
;  
; INPUTS:  
;   range = range for the significance, may be an array.  
;  
; OUTPUTS:  
;   result = the number of significant figures expressed in base 10,  
;   Example: sigfig(1000) = 3,  
;           sigfig(0.01) = -2  
;  
; COMMON BLOCKS:  
;   none.  
; SIDE EFFECTS:  
;   none.  
; MODIFICATION HISTORY:  
;   Written by: Trevor Harris, Physics Dept., University of Adelaide,  
;   July, 1990.
```
