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Subject: Re: long to float

Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Thu, 05 Apr 2001 17:49:49 GMT

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Dominik wrote:

```
>
> Hello,
>
> I have a small problem (i hope)
>
> I read a number (is = -536852787) out of a file. But this number is not a
> long, it shoul be a float. It should be sb =6588.00. I am not sure if the
> first Number is a big endian, but the second is in little endian.
> so, after I multiply the start number with -1 and make byteorder, the same
> hexadecimal number is in the memory. It is FF1F33B9, but he shows
> e -14732359
> Is there a good way to see the stuff in memory as a float and not as a
> long??
>
> thanks for helping
> Dominik
>
> Example code
> pro test
>
> f = -536852787
> help, f
> print, Format='(Z)', f
> f = -1 * f
> help, f
> print, Format='(Z)', f
> byteorder, f
> help, f
> print, Format='(Z)', f
> end
```

I would tackle the problem on the step before: you mention you read the number from a file. So (if it is a binary file) you should make use of the `swap_endian` keyword if you read files produced on other platforms. Then you can directly read in your float numbers with no need of conversion.

BTW: You should always "declare" the variable type when you read stuff from file, e.g.

```
time=0.D
value=0.
```

