
Subject: the precision of PRINT and HELP statements
Posted by [george.mccabe](#) on Thu, 04 Oct 2001 16:46:02 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

hello,

this one made me laugh when i realized what was going on -

```
IDL> help, chkN
CHKN      LONG      =      140486
IDL> help, float(Nhb)/Nreq0
<Expression>  FLOAT  =      140486.
IDL> print, chkN - float(Nhb)/Nreq0
      -0.500000
```

perhaps one should expect IDL's PRINT statement to act this way,

```
IDL> print, float(Nhb)/Nreq0
      140486.
IDL> print, format='(g)', float(Nhb)/Nreq0
      140486.5
```

but, the HELP command i feel should show the actual value to the precision of the variable type.

is there a way to set the format of HELP output, or adjust system wide format settings?

thank you,
george, george.mccabe@gsfc.nasa.gov
