
Subject: Re: bizarre number transformation

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Thu, 25 Jul 2002 19:22:26 GMT

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Michael Ganzer wrote:

- >
- > As plenty postings already were dealing about how to use a double precision
- > number i wanted to ask u something different...
- >
- > Whatever you do with 443496.984 in multiplication or something else.....
- > does it really matter at that number size if there is more than one digit
- > exact after the digit separator???

My goodness. 443496.984 is not a "big" number. What if you have to add it to 0.004657?

<snip>

- > And numeric approximations like in computer calculations often produce
- > higher mistake percentages than u expect...

Usually due to people thinking computers can represent floating point numbers exactly. The most important word in your sentence is "approximations"

- > And your "almost half a million" for a calculation already is a big
- > number...

If the number represented dollars (or euros...which are probably worth more now :o), I agree. It's big.

If the number represents the number of water vapour molecules per metre³ it's amazingly teeny tiny.

paulv

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Beer is good.

My wife.