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Subject: Re: Histogram indeterminate results

Posted by [James Kuyper](#) on Sat, 14 Dec 2002 17:03:16 GMT

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swisswuff wrote:

...

- > Now know that mathematical results can be \*simply\* numerically unstable
- > if calculated in the wrong data type on IDL.

Keep in mind that there's nothing magical about double precision vs. single precision. For a sufficiently nasty situation, even double precision is inadequate; even quad precision can fail. Sometimes the best approach is not to use higher precision, but to find an entirely different approach that's not as much of a strain on the available precision. Unfortunately, it takes a lot of mathematical sophistication to identify such a technique.

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