
Subject: Re: HISTOGRAM and the Razor's Edge.
Posted by [timrobishaw](#) on Thu, 12 Jun 2003 21:54:13 GMT
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Thanks a bunch, folks. Your responses were very helpful. Much appreciated.

-Tim.

Paul van Delst wrote:

```
> The result isn't wrong. Your assumptions about the numerical accuracy are.  
> I'm amazed you're surprised at getting a result of 1.9999980926513671875 for  
> the expression (-5.40-(-5.50))/0.05, Even double precision won't help you  
> here:  
>  
> IDL> print, (-5.40d0-(-5.50d0))/0.05d0, format='(f21.19)'  
> 1.99999999999999928946
```

Paul:

First of all, let me thank you for your amazement at my lack of understanding. That's not a very friendly way to encourage people to post questions to your group. Secondly, I was not surprised that your example wasn't an integer; rather, I discovered this was exactly the reason HISTOGRAM **wasn't** working as I expected it to. I was surprised that HISTOGRAM was subtracting the MIN and then dividing by the BINSIZE when this is bound to goof up values at the hairy edges of bins. My question was whether or not there was a way to get around this problem should you be expecting it.
