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Subject: Re: IDL strsplit : split a decimal number  
Posted by [mwvogel](#) on Wed, 07 Jul 2004 16:08:32 GMT  
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"Paolo Grigis" <pgrigis@astro.phys.ethz.ch> schreef in bericht  
news:40ec199f\$1@pfaff2.ethz.ch...

>

> It is slightly confusing, however, that IDL

>

> IDL> print,!dpi,format='(D50.40)'  
> 3.1415926535897931159979634685441851615906

>

> makes up some nonsense digits after reaching the machine precision  
> limit.

>

> I guess I would have preferred a "simpler" output like  
> 3.14159265358979300000000000000000... when one can easily  
> spot that the double precision limit is reached at the 15th  
> digit.

>

Now, this is what happens on my machine { x86 (AMD Athlon) Win32 Windows 5.4  
Sep 25 2000 32 64} :

IDL> print,!dpi,format='(D50.40)'  
3.14159265358979310000000000000000000000000000000

Alternatively, I think RSI has made the E format specifier to limit the  
number to machine precision.

IDL> print,!dpi,format='(E)'  
3.1415926535897931E+000

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