> Pretty printers (auto-indentation, etc.) lose a lot of information...
> and tend to mess up comments,
> especially when the author carefully lined up the columns of his/her
> comments or code in some sort of table.

Could you elaborate on this? What information is lost by reformatting?

Here is an example from a FORTRAN calculator program, which will also
only line up right if you display in a fixed width font like Courier:

```
                              ! Problems
    if((a.eq.'/' .and. y.eq.0).or.          ! Divide by 0
    &   (a.eq.'1/'.and. y.eq.0).or.           ! reciprocal of 0
    &   (a.eq.'^' .and.(y.lt.0               ! Negatives to
negative power
    &            .or.(x.eq.0.and.y.eq.0))) then ! Zero to zero power
```

If you only know IDL,

```
                            ; Problems
  if (a eq '/'  and  y eq 0) or $               ; Divide by 0
    (a eq '1/' and  y eq 0) or $               ; reciprocal of 0
    (a eq '^'  and (y lt 0     $               ; Negatives to
negative power
           or (x eq 0 and y eq 0)) then begin ; Zero to zero
power
```

If you only know C,

```
                          /* Problems */
  if((strcmp(a,'/' )==0 &&  y==0) ||        /* Divide by 0 */
    (strcmp(a,'1/')==0 &&  y==0) ||         /* reciprocal of 0 */
    (strcmp(a,'^' )==0 && (y==0             /* Negatives to negative
power */
           || (x==0 && y==0))) { /* Zero to zero power */
```

No pretty printer is gonna preserve that.