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Subject: Re: Yet again, The Sky is Falling!

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 08 Mar 2007 18:22:37 GMT

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yp writes:

- > Why is such discrepancy? In my problem the accuracy after 3rd decimal
- > point is not so important, however, after seeing the results I lose
- > confidence on IDL's capability on Real number arithmetic!
- >
- > May be I am missing something?

Well, maybe because I can't see it, but I'm immediately suspicious of what is going on in OPERATION. If you perform these two calls in the opposite order do you get the same result? That is, do you know for a fact that A, B, and F are not changing? (You have compared them before and after?)

If it was some other number, perhaps, but zero!? It seems to me all computers can represent 0 accurately. :-)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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