William Thompson wrote:

>
> I believe that I was that user. Specifically, I reported that the expected

No, it was someone else who emailed me about this issue.

> answer of 0 was seen when the calculation was done in single precision.
> However, the same was not true in double precision. The only thing this
> demonstrates is that the problems of computer round-off error shows up in
> different ways in VMS than on other computers, and is simply because of the
> difference between the VAX floating point representation and the more standard
> IEEE one. In other words, it's a hardware difference, not a software one.

That is what I have learned as well.

>
> I think the discussion of how computer round-off error manifests itself is
> interesting. However, it's important to remember that this has nothing to do
> with IDL. Round-off errors are determined solely by the floating point
> processing done by the CPU. It was stated earlier, without testing, that IDL
> was deficient in this repect relative to Fortran or C--I showed in an earlier
> message that this was not the case.
>
> William Thompson

Agreed.

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