On Apr 2, 4:09 am, Paolo Grigis <pgri...@astro.phys.ethz.ch> wrote:
> The problem here is not one of method for computing Pi
> (as remarked, plenty are available), but rather the lack
> of an arbitrary precision library in IDL... (or has
> anybody already written one?)
>
> Ciao,
> Paolo

There are a class of formulas called Bailey-Borwein-Plouffe (BBP) that
let you find the nth digit, without having found the preceding ones.
If you head to your library or Google around, I'm sure you can find
out enough to show off to your heart's content. With double precision,
I think that should let you get the first 10^7 digits or so.

I Googled and found code examples here
http://crd.lbl.gov/~dhbailey/expmath/bbp-codes/

Cheers,
Josiah