Subject: Recognizing double precision?
Posted by wlandsman on Fri, 05 Oct 2007 15:12:40 GMT
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About once a year I receive a complaint about my code because someone inputs a Julian date like this

IDL> jd = 2441636.1

and then gets mysterious results because the value of jd is "truncated"

IDL> print, jd, f='(f10.2)'
2441636.00

So it would it be reasonable to request that the IDL compiler recognize a number as double precision, if it has too many digits to be stored as a floating point number? After all, IDL does do something like this (in default mode) for short and long integers:

IDL> a = 32767 & help,a
A INT = 32767
IDL> a = 32768 & help,a
A LONG = 32768

I can't imagine how adding this capability would break existing code.

Does anyone know if other interpreted languages can recognize a double precision number when they encounter one? Thanks, --Wayne