Subject: Re: Recognizing double precision?
Posted by R.Bauer on Wed, 24 Oct 2007 18:15:33 GMT
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wlandsman schrieb:
> 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
>

I would prefer a good working function which does get the minimum type
needed to represent the data. That would help on an other issue too.
e.g. you could then read data type dependent into structures.

This function could be used for the compiler too but it should not be
hidden from the user.

cheers
Reimar

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