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Subject: Re: Numbers from nowhere?

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Fri, 15 Feb 2008 21:31:30 GMT

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Conor wrote:

> I'm just curious:

>

> print,3.3,format='(f30.28)'

> 3.2999999523162841796875000000

>

> Obviously float is only good to ~6 decimal places, but IDL will still

> print out additional digits. It seems that it does reach a point

> where IDL will only print out zeroes. I'm just curious - where do

> these extra digits come from? Does it come from rounding errors

> converting binary to decimal? Or does it come from some other

> nefarious location?

Cosmic rays randomly flipping the bits beyond the stated precision?

:o)

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