
Subject: Re: Numbers from nowhere?

Posted by [bennette](#) on Fri, 15 Feb 2008 21:12:02 GMT

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On Feb 15, 10:08 am, Conor <cmanc...@gmail.com> 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?

I think that you hit the nail on the head. There is a nice article on decimal to binary conversion on David Fanning's sight.

http://www.dfanning.com/math_tips/sky_is_falling.html

Eric

Eric Bennett

National Institutes of Health

[bennette at nih.nhlbi.gov](mailto:bennette@nih.nhlbi.gov)
