
Subject: Re: print and precision

Posted by [lasse](#) on Fri, 15 Feb 2008 07:44:46 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hi there

> As near as I can tell the print command pretty much just picks a
> random number of digits to print out.

Far from it! With the 32bits available for type float numbers, you can only archive a relative precision of 1e-6 to 1e-7 so it makes absolutely no sense to print more then 6-7 digits of a float type variable.

> Of course floating point doesn't store 9 digits of precision, so I
> have no idea where the extra digits are coming from anyway...

Precisely. So why use a format code to print them out? If you do a

`x = 3.3`

then IDL saves precisely that number to a relative precision of the float type.

Cheers

Lasse Clausen
