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Subject: Re: IDL is not accurate enough!

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 28 Aug 2008 16:35:47 GMT

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noahh.schwartz@gmail.com writes:

- > I've been having problems with IDL accuracy. I'm trying to perform
- > calculations using the gamma function. The problem is that it grows
- > VERY fast! Performing this calculation in double (namely gamma(x)/
- > gamma(y) with x and y big) yields the result: NaN...
- > Would it be possible to use a program like 'Mathematica' (or any
- > other) and to plug it in my ILD program? Some kind of CALL\_EXTERNAL
- > that is to say. If it is possible, how can I do it and what is the
- > best program to use?

It seems \*highly\* unlikely to me that IDL's implementation of DOUBLE is any less accurate than any other program's implementation. In fact, this probably has something to do with the \*computer\* and not with the program. :-)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming ([www.dfanning.com](http://www.dfanning.com))

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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