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Subject: Re: IDL is not accurate enough!

Posted by [Haje Korth](#) on Tue, 02 Sep 2008 12:20:04 GMT

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Noah,

other in this thread have laid out the issue, nothing to add here. If you want to go brute force with extended precision, check out the cephes math library at <http://www.netlib.org/cephes/>. There is an extended precision version that has a gamma function. I have used that in the past for calculating hypergeometric functions and it served my needs. I used `call_external`, but you can certainly turn this into a dlm.

Cheers,

Haje

<noahh.schwartz@gmail.com> wrote in message

news:c7b7fc70-b4db-4c3d-8d2b-50f88dbd1d62@s50g2000hsb.google groups.com...

> Hi,

>

> 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?

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> Thanks,

> Noah

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