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?

>

- > Thanks,
- > Noah