plim.dreaming@gmail.com writes:

> Later in the program I calculate the separation between points (x1,y1)
> (x2,y2)
> And for some of those points the program says that the pairs are the
> same. But they are only the same if they are rounded off, the
> difference often only shows up in the last 2 decimal places.
> ya, i read that link, most of it at least.

I hope you aren't comparing floats with the EQ operator.
Maybe you should read that article again. All the way
to the end this time. :-)

You might try Floats_Equal. You will get better results,
probably:

  http://www.dfanning.com/program/floats_equal.pro

> One other thing is: lets say the print out is the issue; a case like
> you pointed out above, then why is it that if I do:
> b=3Dstring(num)
> print,b   will give me the rounded off number?

It isn't rounding off the number. The number is the
number. It is printing the number in 8 significant
figures, which is the default format. Give it another
format and it will do something else.

Cheers,

David
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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")