
Subject: Re: truncation when reading variables from netcdf file?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 16 Sep 2011 03:33:37 GMT

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Ashley Berg writes:

> When reading a variable from a netcdf file in IDL, does IDL truncate
> the numbers when it saves them into an array? For example, I am
> reading in a floating array from a netcdf file, and the numbers in the
> file all go to 16 decimal places. I save the numbers into a double
> array, but even double-precision numbers only go to about 14 decimal
> places, right?

If you ask a computer to print a number to 16 or 32
or 48 decimal places, it will happily do so. Now,
whether those number MEAN anything or not, is
another question entirely.

If you have doubles in your file, and you read them
as doubles, you will have no problems. If you have
floats and read them as floats, you will also be
fine. :-)

Many IDL programmers start their journey into numbers
by starting with this article and proceeding from
there:

http://www.idlcoyote.com/math_tips/sky_is_falling.html

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>

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