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Subject: Re: Type of array to store large numbers  
Posted by [Fabzi](#) on Fri, 25 May 2012 12:58:15 GMT  
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On 05/25/2012 02:50 PM, Sir Loin Steak wrote:

> Hi all

>

> I have a lot of numbers that have high precision (such as 401.4798584)  
> and I am trying to find what sort of array to use to store these  
> values. Can anyone help? I've tried floats, doubles etc, and none keep  
> the precision to more than 5 d.p. Am I missing something obvious, or  
> is what I'm after impossible?!!

What do you mean with "keep" the precision?

```
IDL> f = 401.4798584
```

```
IDL> d = 401.4798584d
```

```
IDL> print, f  
401.480
```

```
IDL> print, d  
401.47986
```

```
IDL> print, f, FORMAT='(F12.8)'  
401.47985840
```

```
IDL> print, d, FORMAT='(F12.8)'  
401.47985840
```

[http://www.idlcoyote.com/math\\_tips/sky\\_is\\_falling.html](http://www.idlcoyote.com/math_tips/sky_is_falling.html)

Cheers

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