

---

Subject: Re: Excluding Decimal Places in the Values of a Variable

Posted by [Lisa08](#) on Thu, 14 Feb 2013 21:17:08 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On Thursday, February 14, 2013 2:55:56 PM UTC-6, David Fanning wrote:

> Lisa08 writes:

>

>

>

>>

>

>> Hi everyone,

>

>>

>

>> I have a question that I think should be very simple to answer but I can't seem to find a solution for it.

>

>>

>

>> I am trying to chop off the last two decimal places for the values of a variable. The values for my variable have 5 decimal places and I want to trim it down to 3. For example, let's say my variable is:

>

>>

>

>> x=[[1.35679, 2.65487], [3.65789, 4.56455]]

>

>>

>

>> So I want to exclude the last two decimal places and have it be:

>

>>

>

>> x=[[1.356, 2.654], [3.657, 4.564]]

>

>>

>

>>

>

>> Now, I know how to do this using a "PRINT" command as below but I don't know how to tell IDL to save the output that was printed out to a variable.

>

>>

>

>>

>

>> IDL> print, x, FORMAT='(F8.3)'

```
>
>> 1.357
>
>> 2.655
>
>> 3.658
>
>>
>
>> Also, Is there a way to make it "not round up"? I have found a routine that does what I want,
excludes the final two decimal places and doesn't round up, but the problem with it is that it
converts the values to a string to do this and then I can't seem to convert them back to floats as it
gives me the following error:
>
>>
>
>> Type Conversion error: Unable to convert given STRING to Float
>
>>
>
>> The routine I found online to do this is called DECIMALS.pro and is available here:
>
>>
>
>> https://people.ok.ubc.ca/erosolo/idl/lib/decimals.pro
>
>
>
> I would do it this way:
>
>
>
> IDL> x=[[1.35679, 2.65487], [3.65789, 4.56455]]
>
> IDL> x = Fix(x*1000)/1000.
>
>
>
> Cheers,
>
>
>
> David
>
>
>
> --
>
```

- > David Fanning, Ph.D.
- >
- > Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
- >
- > Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>
- >
- > Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Wow, so simple and easy. I always make things more complicated than they have to be. Thanks so much!

Lisa

---