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Subject: Re: Pi is Rotten?

Posted by [Jim Pendleton](#) on Sun, 16 Mar 2014 20:10:45 GMT

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On Friday, March 14, 2014 7:17:51 AM UTC-6, David Fanning wrote:

> Folks,

>

>

>

> Perhaps because today is Pi Day:

>

>

>

> <http://bit.ly/1IDkQi4>

>

>

>

> Andrew Cools alerts me to an IDL problem of utmost importance. I refer,

>

> of course, to an inexplicable problem with IDL's version of Pi:

>

>

>

> IDL> print, !dpi, format='(f0.18)'

>

> 3.1415926535897931

>

>

>

> As everyone knows, the actual value of Pi is 3.1415926535897932. The

>

> last digit here is a "2", not a "1".

>

>

>

> <http://bit.ly/1qCvycp>

>

>

>

> Even ExelisVis itself realizes this, and puts the proper value in the

>

> new !Const system variable. What's up with this? Can we ever trust IDL

>

> again?

>

>

>

> Cheers,

>  
>  
>  
> David  
>  
>  
>  
> P.S. Let's just say I'm off to get a piece of apple with my morning Joe.  
>  
>  
>  
> --  
>  
> 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.")

David,  
You might consider updating your Sky is Falling article to include a discussion on the new "implied print" behavior of IDL 8.3.

"For floating-point data types, unlike the PRINT procedure, Implied Print will automatically use the maximum number of digits of precision."

Will it prevent angry phone calls from researchers at 3 am? Probably not.

Jim P.

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