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Subject: Re: Quadruple Precision?

Posted by [chris](#) on Wed, 18 Jan 1995 21:54:09 GMT

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I wrote:

Quadruple precision?

The answer is: Nope.

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IDL does not support quadruple precision. The data type supported by IDL are listed in Chapter 1 of the IDL User's Guide. The highest precision floating point numbers in IDL are double precision.

I noticed that you are not listed in our database of IDL users. We do ask that IDL users who call or write for technical assistance be registered for IDL Technical Support. In order to receive further assistance from the technical support group please write to Donna, [donna@rsinc.com](mailto:donna@rsinc.com) for details on purchasing this service.

Sincerely,

Hilary

+-----+

support@rsinc.com	IDL and ENVI	
303-786-9930 x320	Technical Support	

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Yes it was for a non graphical application. I need to know Julian Date (which ranges around 2e6) to about 12 decimal places, so a total of ~18 sig figs, for purposes of comparison w/ a Fortran program. I can get around the problem by using modified julian dates or separating JD into an integer and a fraction, but I was looking for an easier way.

-chris

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Subject: Re: Quadruple Precision?

Posted by [sterner](#) on Thu, 19 Jan 1995 13:40:00 GMT

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[chris@mercury.sfsu.edu](mailto:chris@mercury.sfsu.edu) (Christopher McCarthy) writes:

> Is quadruple precision possible in IDL? EG. what I believe would be:

> real \*16 in FORTRAN.

> On my machine (Sparc 1) double precision seems to be good to ~16 digits.  
> (IDL's !dpi differed from Mathematica's pi (to 30 placed) in the 16th digit.  
> No I haven't bothered to look up the real pi to check mathematical!)  
  
> Any thoughts? Thanks.

Let me point you to the Pi Page:

<http://www.ccsf.caltech.edu/~roy/pi.html>

Here is a small extract from the 50,000 digit subpage:

3.  
141592653589793238462643383279502884197169399375105820974944  
592307816406286208998628034825342117067982148086513282306647  
093844609550582231725359408128481117450284102701938521105559  
644622948954930381964428810975665933446128475648233786783165  
271201909145648566923460348610454326648213393607260249141273  
724587006606315588174881520920962829254091715364367892590360  
011330530548820466521384146951941511609433057270365759591953  
092186117381932611793105118548074462379962749567351885752724  
891227938183011949129833673362440656643086021394946395224737  
190702179860943702770539217176293176752384674818467669405132

There is also a link to a 1,250,000 digit page if 50,000  
are not enough.

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Applied Physics Laboratory      West longitude 76.90 degrees.  
Laurel, MD 20723-6099  
WWW Home page: <ftp://fermi.jhuapl.edu/www/s1r/people/res/res.html>

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