
Subject: Re: Reads Precision Error?

Posted by [chase](#) on Mon, 06 Mar 1995 17:38:58 GMT

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>>>> > "Christopher" == Christopher McCarthy <chris@sfsu.edu> writes:
In article <3jbsjr\$29f@news.csus.edu> chris@sfsu.edu (Christopher McCarthy) writes:

```
Christopher> three = [0.123456789012345d0,1.d0,1.d0]
Christopher> a = 1.d0 & b = 1.d0 & c=1.d0      ;italize double
Christopher> reads,three,a,b,c
Christopher> print,three(0),a,f='(D40.30)'
```

Christopher> And you get:

```
Christopher>      0.123456789012344997358283649191
Christopher>      0.123456789999999996809698643574
```

three is not a string. READS takes a string for the first argument (like the corresponding FORTRAN statement). The "IDL Reference Guide" states that if the "supplied argument is not a string, it is automatically converted." It probably does the conversion the same way as the STRING command (I believe it uses the default list-directed formats explained in the User Guide chapter on I/O).

To see what conversion result do this:

```
s=strarr(3)
reads,three,s
print,s
      0.12345679      1.0000000      1.0000000
```

The commands below should give you what you expect:

```
three=['0.123456789012345d0','1.d0','1.d0'] ; string argument
a = 1.d0 & b = 1.d0 & c=1.d0      ;italize double
reads,three,a,b,c
print,a,f='(D40.30)'
      0.12345678901234499000000000000000
```

Chris

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