Subject: print and precision
Posted by elwood on Thu, 14 Feb 2008 16:50:51 GMT
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I have a tiny understanding of how numbers are stored in computers and how a float only has 32 bits to store a number, so for some numbers it may run
out of bits before it can store the precise value that the user intended.

My question is, what is the default form of the print statement doing?

for example:
x=3.3

If i Understand correctly, the floating point binary representation of this number is
11.01001100110011001100110011001100
which exceeds 32 bits

so I'd expect to get something like
3.299999999813735
due to truncation

But if I print,x
I get 3.3
I'm sure theres some misunderstanding on my part here, but is there a document I could read
concerning how the print command works with regard to floating point precision?

Thanks