
Subject: Newbie math trouble

Posted by [Gaurav](#) on Mon, 29 Sep 2008 07:39:10 GMT

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Dear all,

I am having trouble comparing floating point numbers. I seem to have seen it solved somewhere in IDL help but I am not able to locate it today. The following simple snippet illustrates the trouble:

```
#####  
bottom_value = 327.3 ; usually a user input  
interval = 0.3  
start_value = ceil(bottom_value/interval) * interval  
;start value will contain the smallest number > bottom_value that is  
divisible by interval  
  
print, bottom_value, start_value  
if bottom_value ne start_value then print, 'All is not well'  
#####
```

this code gives me the output:

327.300, 327.300

All is not well

Clearly all is not well. I believe IDL is trying to compare Double values instead of Float values. How do I overcome this. Any insight would be highly appreciated.

Gaurav
