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Subject: How to use large ( $>10^{38}$ ) numbers

Posted by [Adam Solomon](#) on Fri, 28 May 2010 21:50:04 GMT

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I've got a piece of code where I need to make a calculation where one part is a certain float variable (on the order of  $10^{28}$ ) squared. IDL likes to call this "inf". Apparently no data type I can find (float included) is willing to recognize a number greater than about  $3e38$  as a finite number. I can think of a number of unwieldy workarounds to do this calculation, but is there a way to store numbers this large (up to  $\sim 10^{60}$ ) in an array?

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