
Subject: % Program caused arithmetic error: Floating illegal operand

Posted by [jjaxinxin](#) on Thu, 14 May 2015 23:39:38 GMT

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```
xc=250 & yc=250 & r=170 & for i=yc-r , yc+r do print,floor(-sqrt(1.*r^2-1.*(i-yc)^2)+xc)
if charge r=185 , i get the following error:
% Program caused arithmetic error: Floating illegal operand
I don't konw what to do to get rid of this error. Do you have any ideas?
```

Subject: Re: % Program caused arithmetic error: Floating illegal operand

Posted by [Dick Jackson](#) on Fri, 15 May 2015 01:29:37 GMT

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On Thursday, 14 May 2015 16:39:39 UTC-7, jjaxinxin wrote:

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```

Yes, your value 'r' is a short integer, so notice what happens to r^2:

```
IDL> 170^2
 28900
IDL> 185^2
-31311
```

I will guess that this is not what you wanted. I'd suggest using float values, at least for 'r' and 'c' (which looks like it could give trouble, too). Then you can get rid of the "1.*", which I guess was to change the expression to float.:

```
xc=250 & yc=250. & r=185. & for i=yc-r , yc+r do print,floor(-sqrt(r^2-(i-yc)^2)+xc)
```

You might find it useful to put these values in an array, which can be done easily like this. (I think IDL 8.0 is needed to use the [start:end] syntax I use here):

```
xc=250 & yc=250. & r=185. & myResult = floor(-sqrt(r^2-([yc-r:yc+r]-yc)^2)+xc)
(running "PLOT, myResult" after this shows a very nice semicircle!)
```

Also, good job with presenting your question clearly, with all the important details! Not everyone has been as clear in the past few days. :-)

Cheers,
-Dick

Dick Jackson Software Consulting Inc.
Victoria, BC, Canada --- <http://www.d-jackson.com>
