
Subject: Wow. exp() difficulties...

Posted by [lady of the elves](#) on Thu, 24 Jul 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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I've encountered a really interesting--though annoying--problem. I'm trying to use `exp(a)`, where `a > 88` or so. My calculator can do it...the program can't. It gives me a "floating underflow" error.

Can anyone give me more information on how to work this out? I haven't yet figured out long numbers...nor how they differ from floating point. I don't know if these uncertainties relate, but all of my numbers are floating point.

Is it just that the language can't handle the numbers? $e^{89} = 4.4 \times 10^{38}$; it's rather large--but is it just that it can't handle the size? Or the precision? Is it that I need to know more about long numbers?

What *is* a floating underflow?

:) thanks
-gzb
