
Subject: Strange Bug with numeric double constants
Posted by [Alex Schuster](#) on Mon, 22 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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Hi!

I just experienced some weird IDL behaviour:

```
IDL> help, 1.0d+2.0d
```

```
help, 1.0d+2.0d
```

^

% Syntax error.

```
IDL> help, 1d+2d
```

```
help, 1d+2d
```

^

% Syntax error.

Strange, isn't it? There's no problem with byte constants:

```
IDL> help, 1b+2b
```

```
<Expression>  BYTE    =  3
```

An additional blank helps:

```
IDL> help, 1d +2d
```

```
<Expression>  DOUBLE  =   3.0000000
```

I didn't try IDL 5.2, but it happened with 4.0 and 5.1 on Unix and Windows. I guess IDL expects an exponential notation like 1d0, and is confused by the nonnumeric plus character.

Alex

--

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Subject: Re: Strange Bug with numeric double constants
Posted by [badastro](#) on Thu, 25 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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In comp.lang.idl-pvwave Alex Schuster <alex@rosa.mpin-koeln.mpg.de> wrote:

> Hi!

> I just experienced some weird IDL behaviour:

> IDL> help, 1.0d+2.0d

> help, 1.0d+2.0d

> ^

> % Syntax error.

> IDL> help, 1d+2d

> help, 1d+2d

> ^

> % Syntax error.

> Strange, isn't it?

Nope. ;-) IDL expects that what follows the 'd' is the exponent, like 100 being 1.d2 or 1.d+2. If you put a 'd' after the 2, it doesn't recognize it as being part of the exponent, so it barfs. The same thing happens if you use an 'e' instead of 'd'. It doesn't happen with byte numbers because the 'b' doesn't precede an exponent.

* * * * * The Bad Astronomer * * * *

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The Bad Astronomy Web Page: <http://www.badastronomy.com>

Subject: Re: Strange Bug with numeric double constants
Posted by [Alex Schuster](#) on Thu, 25 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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William Thompson wrote:

> Alex Schuster <alex@rosa.mpin-koeln.mpg.de> writes:

>> I just experienced some weird IDL behaviour:

>

>> IDL> help, 1.0d+2.0d

>

>> help, 1.0d+2.0d

>> ^

>> % Syntax error.

[...]

> Wouldn't it be more proper to write these numbers as

>

> IDL> help, 1.0d0+2.0d0

Okay-okay, I admit that IDL is correct... this time :)

Alex

--

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