

[6.9] Convert floating-point numbers to exact fractions

The usual method to convert a floating-point number n to an exact fraction is to use $exact(n)$. However, this function will only work for numbers smaller than the 14-digit precision of the 89/92+. For example, $exact(1.234567890123456)$ results in $6172839450617/5000000000000$, which is actually 1.23456789012 ; the ...3456 from the original number has been lost.

This program can be used to convert arbitrarily long floating point number to exact fractions.

```
stoexact(str)
Func
@Convert string argument to exact number

Local b,t,s

sign(expr(str))→s

if inString(str,"-")=1
right(str,dim(str)-1)→str

inString(str,".")→b

If b≠0 then
right(str,dim(str)-b)→t
Return s*(exact(iPart(expr(str)))+exact(expr(t))/10^(dim(t)))

else
return exact(expr(str))
EndIf

EndFunc
```

The argument is passed as a string, for example

```
stoexact("1.234567890987654321")
```

returns $1234567890987654321/10000000000000000000$.

This function works for positive and negative arguments, but does not support exponential notation.

(credit for original idea & core code to Kenneth C. Arnold)