

[8.5] *string()* uses the current number display format

When *string()* converts a number to a string, it uses the current display format. This behavior is not explicitly described in the 89/92+ manual. While this is usually what you want to do when using *string()* to convert numbers for display, it is usually *not* what you want if you use *string* to convert a number for additional processing.

For example, suppose you want to extract the mantissa of x , where $x = 1.2345678901234E15$. If the current display format is *Fix 4*, then *string(x)* returns "1.2346E15". If you use *left()* and *inString()* to extract the mantissa, you will get "1.2346", which is not the actual mantissa. You can retain most of the precision in x by first setting the format to *Float 12*, then *string(x)* returns "1.23456789012E15". However, note that you have lost the last two significant digits of ...34.