
NMEA precision issue on Arduino

2020/07/29

1. Overview

- ◆ Some Arduino board doesn't support "double" data type as 8 byte and its precision is same as "float" type (4 byte).
- ◆ 4 byte latitude or longitude value don't have enough precision (especially on RTK, PPP)
For RTK or PPP position use, at least 6 decimal place is necessary.

35.1 1 1 1 1 1 1

↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑

order 10km 1km 100m 10m 1m 10cm 1cm

The screenshot shows the Arduino Reference website. The navigation bar includes 'STORE', 'SOFTWARE', 'EDU', 'PRO', 'RESOURCES', 'COMMUNITY', and 'HELP'. The breadcrumb trail is 'Reference > Language > Variables > Data types > Double'. The page title is 'double' with the subtitle '[Data Types]'. The 'Description' section states: 'Double precision floating point number. On the Uno and other ATMEGA based boards, this occupies 4 bytes. That is, the double implementation is exactly the same as the float, with no gain in precision.' Below this, it says: 'On the Arduino Due, doubles have 8-byte (64 bit) precision.' A sidebar on the left lists 'LANGUAGE', 'FUNCTIONS', 'VARIABLES', 'STRUCTURE', 'LIBRARIES', 'IOT CLOUD API', and 'GLOSSARY'. The footer of the page reads 'The Arduino Reference text is'.

1. Overview

- ◆ If we handled NMEA with 4 byte, after 6 digit number are rounded. The precision of output degree degrade to 10m order!

Original Lat=35.111111, Lon=35.111111

\$GNGGA,084420,3506.666668,N,13906.666669,E,1,12,0.78,3.0,M,0.0,M,,*55

```
Serial.print("NMEA_LAT=");  
Serial.println(atoi(buf));
```

ASCII -> value

NMEA_LAT=3506.67, NMEA_LON=13906.7

```
pos_llh[0] = NmeallhConv(atoi(buf));
```

```
float NmeallhConv(float nmeallh) { //Not used  
    float deg = (int)nmeallh / 100;  
    float deg2 = nmeallh - deg * 100;  
    deg = deg + deg2 / 60;  
    return deg;  
}
```

NMEA format -> degree

Lat=35.11110687[deg], Lon=139.11109924[deg]

nonsense value

2. Solve

- ◆ We handled degree value as 32bit integer value.

```
pos_1lh[0] = (int32_t)NmeallhConv2(buf, 2); //integer high precision
```

```
int32_t NmeallhConv2(char msg[]) { //NMEA->deg (int32 dd.ddddd)
    int cnt = 0;
    char latlon_c[12];
    uint32_t latlon0=0;
    uint32_t latlon1=0; //deg
    uint32_t latlon2=0; //min before decimal point
    uint32_t latlon3=0; //min after decimal point
    int32_t deg = 0;
    for (int i = 0; i < strlen(msg); i++) {
        if (msg[i] == '.') {
            latlon0=(uint32_t)(atof(latlon_c));
            latlon1=latlon0/100; //deg
            latlon2=latlon0%100; //min
            cnt=0;
            latlon_c[0]='¥0';
            continue;
        }
        latlon_c[cnt]=msg[i];
        cnt++;
        latlon_c[cnt]='¥0';
    }
    latlon3=(uint32_t)(atof(latlon_c));

    int keta = strlen(latlon_c); //after decimal point
    for (int i = 0; i < keta - 7; i++) { //7 digit
        latlon3= latlon3 / 10;
    }
    for(int i=0;i>keta- 7;i--){
        latlon3 = latlon3*10;
    }

    latlon2=latlon2*1000000+latlon3;
    latlon2= latlon2/ 60 / 10; //min->deg 6 digit
    Serial.print(latlon1);Serial.print(".");Serial.println(latlon2);

    deg = latlon1 * 100000 + latlon2;
    return deg;
}
```

Lat=35.12345678

Lon=139.12345678



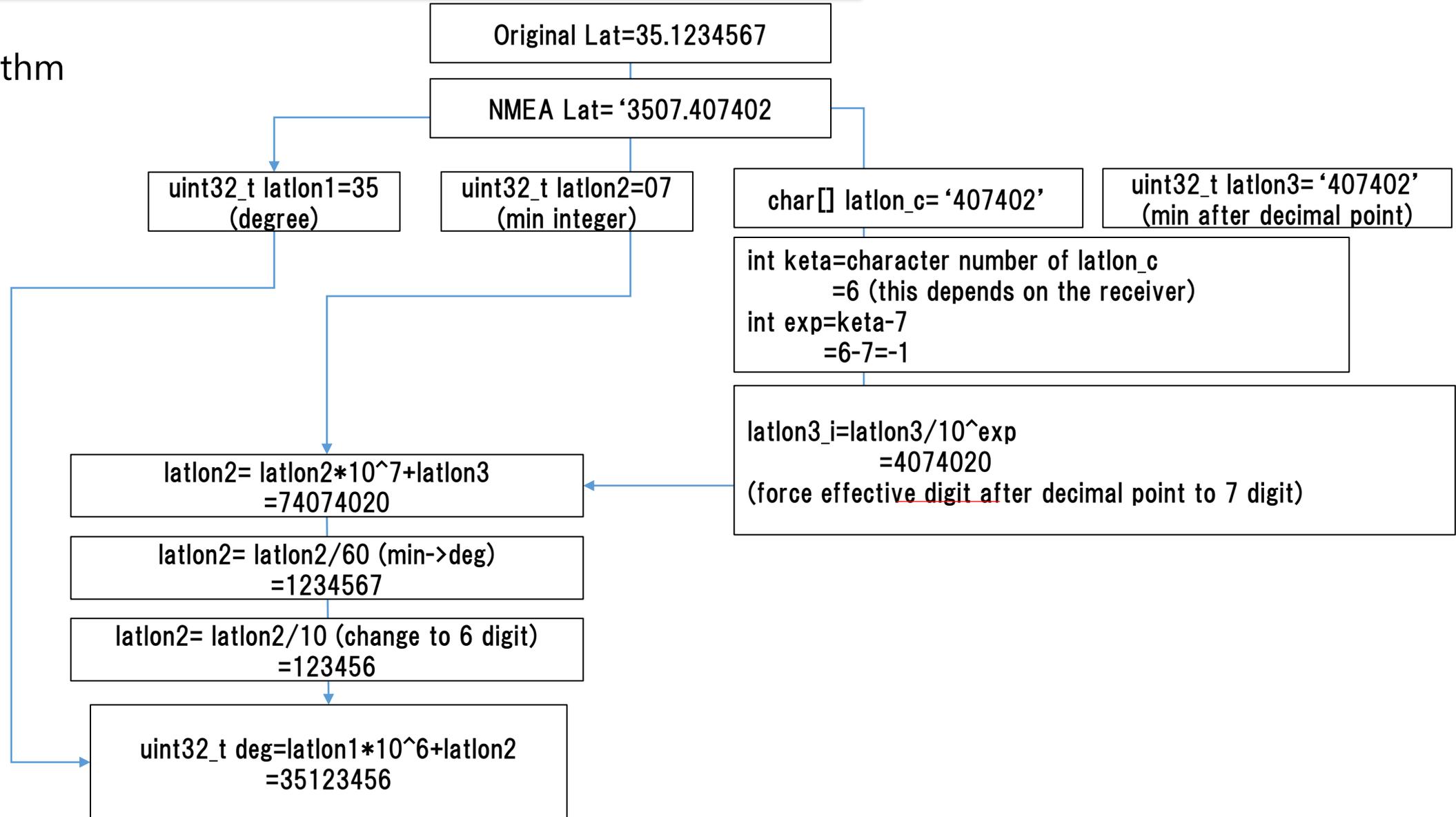
int32_t lat=35123456

int32_t lon=139123456

(int32_t type range=±2147483647)

2. Solve

◆ Algorithm



3. Test

Debug output of Arduino

```
88 EV_TXCOMPLETE↓
89 -----↓
90 DEVADDR: 0x26041B23↓
91 TX_PWR: 13↓
92 channel[0]: 9232↓
93 channel[1]: 9234↓
94 TX_INTERVAL_1: 10↓
95 TX_INTERVAL_2: 10↓
96 -----↓
97 Enter Sleeping ...↓
98 ↓
99 sleep:0↓
100 do_send command↓
101 set_GPSdata↓
102 CRC>52=?52-RMC valid↓
103 CRC>116=?116-GGA valid↓
104 readend↓
105 GGAtoPOS↓
106 35.123456↓
107 139.876543↓
108 RMCtoPOS↓
109 300720,6562986,1,35123456,139876543,300,0↓
110 set_GPSdata_end↓
111 creat_payload↓
112 LMIC send↓
113 7691844: 17↓
114 TxData Size: 17↓
115 Packet queued↓
116 7↓
117 10↓
118 ←
```

Final decode result

NMEA Generator Ver2.14

NMEA出力	ポイント	緯度	経度	標高(m)	速度(km/h)	時刻(UTC)
1 - 74/292039904		35°07'24.444" N	139°52'35.555" E	3.0	0.0	06:56:39.88

コース設定

緯度	経度	標高	速度
35.12345678	139.87654321	3	0.001
35	139	3	0.00000

出力条件

緯度経度小数 5 桁 ジョイド高 0 m

秒小数 2 桁

GGA品質 GPS fix (SPS) RMC先行

1.74 KB (1,787 バイト), 118 行.

3. Test

- ◆ NMEA simulation test for bug check
From (35, 139) to (36,140)

