1 REMITEST FOR SIN FUNCTION ROUNDOFF OR UNDERFLOW ERRORS		
10 LET X = 10/6 20 PRINT "ITERATION	OF THE OWNERS OF	WAL OF SINCEAU
3C FOR I = 1 TO 40	, and we are	van or states
40 LET X = X / 10		
SC PRINT 1, X, SINIX	(
60 NEXT I		
7C END		
ITERATION	NAT OF Y	VAL OF SIN(X)
1	166667	.165896
- 1	.0166667	VAL OF SIN(X) .165896 .0166659
3	1.66667E-03	1.66667E-03
4	1.66667E-04	
5		1.66667E-05
6	1.66667E-06	1.66667E-06
7	1.66667E-07	1.66667E-07 1.66667E-08
8	1.66667E-08	1.66667E-08
9	1.66667E-09	1.66667E-09
10	1.66667E-10	1.66667E-10 1.66667E-11
11	1.00007E-11	1.000076-11
12	1.66667E-12	1.66667E-12 1.66667E-13
13	1.66667E-14	1.66667E-14
14 15		
16	1.66667E-16	1.66667E-15 1.66667E-16
17		
18	1 66662F-18	1.66667E-17 1.66667E-18
19	1.66667E-19	
20	1.66667F-20	1.66667E-20
21	1,66667E-21	1.66667E-20 1.66667E-21
22		
2.3	1.66667E-23	1.66667E-21
24	1.66667E-24	1.66667E=24
25	1.66667E-25	1.66667E-25 1.66667E-26
26	1.66667E-26	
2.7	1.66667E-27	1.66667E-27 1.66667E-28
28		
29	1.66667E-19	
30	1.66667E-50	1.66667E-30
31	1.0000/1-11	1.000072-31
32	1.66667E-32	
33 34	1.66667E-34	1.66667E-33 1.66667E-34
35	9 668670 35	666679 75
36	1.66667E-36	1.66667E-35
37	1.666678-17	.66667E-37
38	1.000075-17	
39	0	0

A run of this program using Microsoft's MBASIC is given. This particular BASIC interpreter handles the SIN of small numbers quite well and doesn't cause trouble until the value of θ is less than 1.0E-38 (a decimal point followed by 37 zeros).

The program given depends on an adequate dynamic range in BASIC's handling of floating point arithmetical operations. It is well to remember that before you can use any mathematical operation in BASIC with confidence, you need to be aware of the range of numbers it can handle accurately.

Remember that a variable name alone, such as X or TREND will automatically be *single precision* (i.e. capable of storing no more than seven digits). Alternatively, variables can be specified as, or changed to, single precision by appending an exclamation mark, as in X! or TREND!. *Double precision* variables (which can store 17 digits) are specified by appending a hash sign, as in X# or TREND#. *Integer* variables (which can store only whole numbers) are specified in many versions of BASIC by appending a per cent sign, as in X% or TREND%.

We end this article with a short program that lets you test how many digits can be stored in a variable in your version of BASIC, together with a print-out of the program when run using Microsoft BASIC. There are two versions, one for testing small numbers and one for large ones. The print-out for small numbers shows that as the numbers become very small (less that $3.3 \times 10E-38$) BASIC rounds the numbers off to zero. For large numbers (greater than $3.3 \times 10E37$) an overflow occurs and the results are unreliable. If

you need to work with very large or very small numbers you may need to write special arithmetic routines to overcome these limitations.