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Subject: Re: Is this a bug?

Posted by [J.D. Smith](#) on Fri, 02 Oct 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan wrote:

> Whenever you put brackets around anything \*but\* a simple variable,  
> IDL makes a temporary variable (a "right hand value" - rvalue) out  
> of it, and \*then\* decides how to do stuff outside the  
> brackets. This is \*why\* putting brackets around e.g., function  
> calls will allow you to do this: print,(size(a))[0].  
>

As a side note, it is this same behavior which allows you to perform another useful trick, often overlooked:

```
b=(a=val)
```

This will assign val to b and a in one shot. Furthermore,

```
d=(c=(b=(a=val)))
```

will work just as well.

See, rvalues aren't all bad.

JD

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J.D. Smith          |*|   WORK: (607) 255-5842  
Cornell University Dept. of Astronomy |*|   (607) 255-6263  
304 Space Sciences Bldg.      |*|   FAX: (607) 255-5875  
Ithaca, NY 14853           |*|
```