
Subject: bug in var_to_dt

Posted by [Vap User](#) on Thu, 15 Oct 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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A 'noyance in var_to_dt

Try this:

```
IDL> print,var_to_dt(1998)
{ 1998 1 1 0 0 0.00000 2450814.5 0}
```

Works fine, but...

```
IDL> print,var_to_dt([1998])
% Conflicting data structures: YYYY,IDLDT.
% Execution halted at: VAR_TO_DT      95 /disk3/rsi/idl/lib/var_to_dt.pro
%          $MAIN$
IDL>
```

The reason is

< begin code fro RSI's routine>

if nElements eq 0 then begin

```
    retVal = !dt_base
endif else if nElements eq 1 then begin
    ^^^^^^^^^^^^^ -- a confusion here with ill effect below
```

```
    retVal = {IDLDT}
    ; Defaults
    if n_elements( mm ) eq 0 then mm = 1B
    if n_elements( dd ) eq 0 then dd = 1B
    if n_elements( hh ) eq 0 then hh = 0B
    if n_elements( min ) eq 0 then min = 0B
    if n_elements( ss ) eq 0 then ss = 0.
```

```
    ;      |||| ||    ||    ||    ||
    retVal = {IDLDT, yyyy, mm<12>1, dd<31>1, hh<23>0, min<59>0, $
              ss<60>0, 0.d, 0b}
    ;      ^^
```

```
    ; And secondarily... ||    ||    |||| ||    ||
    retVal.Julian = julday( mm<12>1, dd<31>1, yyyy, hh<23>0, min<59>0, $
                          ss<60>0 )
    ;      ^^
```

```
; These last two lines assume 1 element = scalar! Not so!  
; At least as far as this type of structure assignment is concerned.
```

```
endif else begin
```

```
<end code>
```

Should read something like ...

```
retVal = {IDLDT, yyyy[0], mm[0]<12>1, dd[0]<31>1, hh[0]<23>0, min[0]<59>0, $  
          ss[0]<60>0, 0.d, 0b}  
retVal.Julian = julday( mm[0]<12>1, dd[0]<31>1, yyyy[0], hh[0]<23>0, $
```

WHD

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I don't speak for JPL, it doesn't speak for me.

Well, not all the time, at least.

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