
Subject: defining functions on-the-fly

Posted by [mperrin+news](#) on Tue, 22 May 2001 22:30:22 GMT

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I would like to be able to define some functions on-the-fly in IDL.

In other words, my program does some stuff, and computes that the desired function is (some arbitrary function, not necessarily a polynomial).

I would then like to define the equivalent of

```
FUNCTION myfunction, x,y
```

```
  return, <my arbitrary expression in (x,y)>
```

```
END
```

and then be able to call myfunction(x,y).

Is there any easier way to do this than actually writing out a myfunction.pro file to disk and compiling that? That way would certainly work, but it strikes me as inelegant... At first I thought I could do this with the EXECUTE statement, but you can't define functions using that.

- Marshall
