Subject: Re: When Ptr_New doesn't work
Posted by John-David T. Smith on Wed, 23 Jan 2002 19:13:12 GMT

"Pavel A. Romashkin" wrote:
>
> I think the key here is, anything in parenthesis gets *evaluated* and as
> such is an expression. And it is not really surprising that one is not
> allowed to assign a value to an expression. This is the strength of IDL
> - it creates temporary variables as expressions, and allows to use them
> just like named variables. Unlike, say, IGOR Pro that requres you to
> define a named variable to even plot it.
>

Right. Another example of parentheses forming an expression is:

IDL> a=(b=1)

which is the only way to do chained assignments.

But as for the necessity of this, compare Perl, where things like:

 ($first, $second, @rest)=make_list();

are allowed. But heh, it's IDL.

JD