Subject: Re: Does this make sense? (scalar objects)
Posted by marc schellens[1] on Fri, 05 Dec 2003 09:52:10 GMT
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JD Smith wrote:

```
>  On Wed, 03 Dec 2003 07:33:20 -0700, Marc Schellens wrote:
>
>
>> check this out:
>>
>> file tt.pro:
>> pro o::test
>>
>> help,self[[0]]
>> help,(self[[0]])
>>
>> print,self[[0]].a
>> print,(self[[0]]).a ;; ???
>> end
>>
>> pro tt
>>
>> s={o,a:0}
>>
>> print,s[[0]].a
>> print,(s[[0]]).a
>>
>> obj=obj_new('o')
>>
>> obj->test
>> end
>>
>>
>> IDL> tt
>> % Compiled module: TT.
>>        0
>>        0
>> <Expression>    OBJREF    = Array[1]
>> <Expression>    OBJREF    = Array[1]
>>        0
>> % Object reference must be scalar in this context: <OBJREF    Array[1]>
>> % Execution halted at: O::TEST            7 /home/marc/idl/tt.pro %
>>                  TT                  19 /home/marc/idl/tt.pro %
>>           $MAIN$
>>
>>
>> Doesn't make sense, does it?
>
```

>
> Well, given that self is always a scalar, your attempts to index it are
> confusing. In any case, the notation a[[b]] creates a single element
> vector:
>
> ```
> IDL> a=1
> IDL> print,size(a[[0]],/DIMENSIONS)
>            1
> ```
>
> You cannot do anything to more than one object at a time (e.g. no objarr
> method calls or instance variable dereference). Hence the error. The
> reason why self[[0]].a works, is that there is probably special code to
> handle instance variable derefence for a single element vector, which
> does not or cannot operate with (self[[0]]).a. Method calls don't like
> a vector no matter what: try
>
> ```
> obj[[0]]->test
> ```
>
> Confusing issues like this have lead at least one RSI programmer to long
> for the abolishment of the scalar as a separate type from a single
> element vector. Sadly, the chance to do this without breaking lots of
> code has long passed.

I cannot guess any example about which (IDL) code would be broken,
if single element vectors and scalars would be treated the same.
Do you have an example?
Or did you mean binary code linked to IDL?

marc