
Subject: Re: arrays vs. functions conflicts

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Fri, 05 Mar 2004 23:45:52 GMT

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Paolo Grigis <pgrigis@astro.phys.ethz.ch> writes:

> Dear Craig,

>

> should you ever feel like giving up idl 4, I think you could be

> surprised how many people might volunteer to help you translating

> some code to []-notation!

Dear Paolo--

I admit that I don't use IDL 4 any more. *BUT*, my finger muscles still know round parenthesis for IDL. It's not a habit I can easily change.

The behavior you found is frustrating, because IDL should be smarter than that. In fact, it *was* smarter in the past. IDL 4 and IDL 5.0 had no problems with your example, so there was something that RSI changed in IDL 5.1 that dumb-ified IDL's recognition of arrays.

Note that even if I put these explicit statements in MPFIT:

```
limits = 0 & limits(0) = 0
```

before any other uses, so clearly IDL *should* know that LIMITS is a variable in this context, IDL 5.1 and above fails to compile.

Truly unfortunate. I would consider changing to square bracket notation, but it's hard to find time for such a mundane task. Knowing that I did it right is another issue. I guess I'll try Wayne's auto-converter at some point soon. And then I have to retrain my fingers.

Craig

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