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Subject: It seems that there is \*a bit\* polymorphism in IDL.

Posted by [tianyf](#) on Wed, 11 Aug 2004 11:00:30 GMT

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I don't know if someone had ever noticed that what will happen if the procedure and the function have the same name. My conclusion is that IDL can figure out which one I am calling - the procedure or the function. This may be a bit useful in some cases. Let's take a look at the following example.

```
;+
; Name:
; msgbox
;
; Purpose:
; Another form of DIALOG_MESSAGE.
;
; Type:
; Function/Procedure
;
; Description:
; This is a mixed routine which has the same name for function
; and procedure. When called, it can distinguish which one is
; called. However, IDL cannot handle functions with the same
; name but with different number or type of parameters.
;
;-
;This is the procedure.
pro msgbox, text, _extra=_extra_
  if n_params() lt 1 then text='Hello, the world!'
  dummy=dialog_message(text,_extra=_extra_)
end
;
;This is the function.
function msgbox, text, _extra=_extra_
  if n_params() lt 1 then text='Hello, the world!'
  dummy=dialog_message(text,_extra=_extra_)
  return,dummy
end
```

Tian.

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