Subject: Re: Weird MIN behavior
Posted by Mark Hadfield on Sun, 20 Feb 2005 22:42:03 GMT
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Michael Wallace wrote:
> Can someone explain this?
>
>
> Normal case; everything works as you expect.
>
> IDL> a = [1.0, 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0]
> IDL> b = min(a, MAX = c)
> IDL> print, b, c
> 1.00000 5.00000
>
>
> Abnormal case; why doesn't this work?
>
> IDL> a = [1.0, 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0]
> IDL> r = dblarr(2)
> IDL> r[0] = min(a, MAX = r[1])
> % MIN: Expression must be named variable in this context: <DOUBLE ((
> 0.00000, 0.00000))>.

It's complaining about the argument passed to the MAX keyword. As it says, this must be a named variable, and a subscripted variable does not qualify because it is passed by value. You're lucky that IDL tells you that it doesn't accept a subscripted variable here--in other situations it quitely leaves the value unmodified and let's you puzzle it out later.

See IDL documentation on "Parameter Passing Mechanism". Also David Fanning's site has relevant material, eg see the info about the correct use of the ARG_PRESENT function in

http://www.dfanning.com/tips/keyword_check.html

and also

http://www.dfanning.com/tips/read_subscripted_array.html

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