
Subject: declare variables

Posted by [qian](#) on Tue, 18 Oct 2005 19:49:37 GMT

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Hi,

I am using FORTRAN and IDL at the same time, so sometime I just assume some FORTRAN rules when using IDL. I just find out that the variable type can change within an IDL program, even you declare it to be some specific type. For example:

```
data=dblarr(2)
```

```
data=[2.3, 3.4]
```

then now, 'data' is a single precision array.

if I type

```
data=[2,3]
```

then it is an integer array.., and $\text{data}(0)/\text{data}(1) = 0$!

I know I should be more careful when programming, always using:

```
data=[2.3D,4.5D]
```

But if I read in data from other files, in which '1' actually means '1.0', is it possible I can re-inforce the array to be certain type (or let the variables to be certain type throughout the whole program)? So even if I type $d=1$, it is still a real number?

Many thanks,

Qian
