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Subject: Re: changing a datatype in a structure

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Thu, 11 May 2006 20:17:06 GMT

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Kenneth Bowman wrote:

> You cannot change the type of a variable inside a structure, but you can add a  
> new variable to an existing (anonymous) structure.

>

> IDL> data = {i : LINDGEN(5)}

> IDL> help, data, /str

> \*\* Structure <215d270>, 1 tags, length=20, data length=20, refs=1:

> I            LONG    Array[5]

> IDL> data = CREATE\_STRUCT(data, 'x', FLOAT(data.i))

> IDL> help, data, /str

> \*\* Structure <215d330>, 2 tags, length=40, data length=40, refs=1:

> I            LONG    Array[5]

> X            FLOAT   Array[5]

> IDL> print, data

> {            0        1        2        3        4

>    0.00000    1.00000    2.00000    3.00000    4.00000

> }

Well, maybe it's just semantics, but in the above you create a new structure and copy the old structure's data into. So, in effect, you're "adding" a field to it, but in that case the following changes the type:

IDL> data = { i : indgen(5) }

IDL> help, data, /structure

\*\* Structure <2213490>, 1 tags, length=10, data length=10, refs=1:

I            INT    Array[5]

IDL> data = { i : float(data.i) }

IDL> help, data, /structure

\*\* Structure <22135b0>, 1 tags, length=20, data length=20, refs=1:

I            FLOAT   Array[5]

Mike

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[www.michaelgalloy.com](http://www.michaelgalloy.com)

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