
Subject: Re: HELP: IDL Function/Variable Problem
Posted by [thompson](#) on Mon, 16 Oct 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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hrebhan@awi-bremerhaven.de (Helge Rebhan) writes:

> Be sure that the function CASPER_BORESIGHT is compiled *before* any
> reference to it. Otherwise a default variable is created.

I'm not sure that this is entirely true. I believe that it is sufficient if the function is in the IDL search path !PATH. Presuming, of course, that it's in a file called casper_boresight.pro. I almost never use .RUN directly. Instead I put each procedure or function in a .pro file of the same name and depend on IDL to automatically compile it for me.

One problem that I have run into is that if one has a function reference that uses a keyword, and that function is not in the path, and one tries to compile a procedure referencing that function, then IDL generates an error. IDL apparently goes through the following steps when it sees something that might be a function, going through each step until a match is found:

1. Checks to see if that function has already been compiled.
2. Looks for a .pro file of the same name in the current directory or in !PATH.
3. Assumes that it's a variable instead of a function.

The problem is that if step 3 is reached, but the function call uses a keyword, then a syntax error is generated.

Bill Thompson
