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Subject: Re: Oh No...

Posted by [Foldy Lajos](#) on Wed, 18 Apr 2007 13:04:59 GMT

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On Wed, 18 Apr 2007, Paolo Grigis wrote:

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>
> Speaking of which, what about
>
> IDL> delvar,a ;undefines a
> IDL> a[(a=2*findgen(10))]=1 ;agreed, this is a bit crazy, but hold on
> IDL> print,a
>   1.00000   1.00000   1.00000   6.00000   8.00000
> 10.0000   1.00000
>   14.0000   1.00000   1.00000
>
> Now, this must be a bug, surely... (or a very strange feature indeed).
>
```

No, invalid code, with undefined result :-)

We have no formal definition of the IDL syntax, but there is a rule in Fortran/C/C++/... which should be true for IDL, too: a memory cell can be modified at most once in an expression. You are modifying 'a' twice in a single expression.

(Section 6.5#2 of the C99 specification: "Between the previous and next sequence point an object shall have its stored value modified at most once by the evaluation of an expression. Furthermore, the prior value shall be accessed only to determine the value to be stored.")

regards,  
lajos

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