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Subject: Re: error in a simple pro  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 13 Sep 2007 03:30:35 GMT  
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yychongzi@gmail.com writes:

> Below is a simple pro file for reading ENVI image, but there is  
> something wrong with the line 'for i=0, ....' Could anyone tell me  
> why?

I am going to presume you are having trouble compiling this file, with IDL reporting a syntax error. This sheds some light on a couple of things I have noticed from time to time, that I am certain is not how IDL used to work. (I would test it, but a couple of weeks ago, in an effort to get more work out of an old machine, I deleted all my old IDL versions.)

Here is what I think is happening. You don't have the file ENVI\_GET\_DATA on your IDL path. Thus, when you go to compile this file, this line causes a syntax error:

```
for l=0, num_bands -1 do image[l,*,*] = $  
    envi_get_data (fid=fid, dims=dims, pos = pos[l])
```

The problem is this. IDL can't find ENVI\_GET\_DATA on your path, so it thinks ENVI\_GET\_DATA is a variable, not a function call. This then \*is\* the wrong IDL syntax for a variable, and IDL complains about it. Correctly, I think.

There are a couple of things you can do to get the file compiled.

(1) Make sure the ENVI files are on your IDL path before you try to compile ENVI functions. This is a good idea, since even if the file compiles, it won't run unless this happens.

(2) Add this line at the start of your program, so IDL knows it is a function:

```
FORWARD_FUNCTION ENVI_GET_DATA
```

(3) Set the compiler option STRICTARR. (This is the best solution in my opinion, and should be done in \*all\* your IDL programs.)

```
COMPILE_OPT STRICTARR
```

Normally, you will see this written as this:

```
COMPILE_OPT idl2
```

which is just a short-hand way of getting STRICTARR  
and DEFINT32 (long integers as the default, also a  
good thing).

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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