
Subject: Re: Order of argument evaluation (Was: Re: making a checkerboard array?)

Posted by [Foldy Lajos](#) on Wed, 26 Sep 2007 14:39:05 GMT

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On Wed, 26 Sep 2007, pgrigis@gmail.com wrote:

> Allan Whiteford wrote:

>> [...]

>>

>> IDL> ((a=fltarr(3)))[1]=10

>> IDL> print,a

>> 0.00000 10.0000 0.00000

>>

>

> I guess a danger signal would be appropriate
> near such statements, after all this can quickly
> get out of control ;-)

>

> IDL> delvar,c

> IDL> c[(c=[0,1])]=(c=[1,2,3])

> IDL> print,c

> 1 1 3

>

In C/C++/Fortran/... there is a rule that a memory cell can be changed at most once in a statement, otherwise the result is undefined (and so different implementations can create different results without violating the standard). I guess a similar rule is in effect in IDL, too.

These examples give syntax error prior IDL 6.0:

IDL> print, !version

{ sparc sunos unix 5.3 Nov 11 1999}

IDL> ((a=fltarr(3)))[1]=10 & print, a

% Expression must be named variable in this context: <FLOAT Array[3]>.

% Execution halted at: \$MAIN\$

IDL>

regards,
lajos
