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

Posted by [pgrigis](#) on Wed, 26 Sep 2007 14:18:22 GMT

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Allan Whiteford wrote:

```
> [...]
>
> Anyway, the real point of my post is to ask if I'm allowed to do the
> above. For a more reasonable example am I allowed to do:
>
> plot,(x=findgen(11)),x^2
>
> and rely on the first argument of plot being evaluated before the second
> argument (and the side effect of creating 'x') similarly for creating an
> array and editing in place, e.g.:
>
> 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
```

Now, go figure this one out...

Ciao,
Paolo

```
> Does anyone else do this or just me? I tend to only do things like this
> at the command line and don't embed it in programs out of fear that
```

> it's going to stop working one day. It also arguably makes the code less
> readable but as a pattern it's probably not that bad. I'd like to know
> what others think.
>
> Thanks,
>
> Allan
