
Subject: Re: Compiling IDL ... ever likey ?
Posted by [James Tappin](#) on Thu, 18 Jan 1996 08:00:00 GMT
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It stikes me that the biggest technical problem would be handling the way IDL is able to change the type of variables without the user knowing explicitly that it is doing so. While the merit of this practice may be debatable, it is difficult for me (as a user of serveral languages rather than a compiler expert) to see an *efficient* compiled code able to do something like:

```
a = indgen(20)
a = a+0.5
```

and have a come out of it as a real quantity. I agree that "a=findngen(20)+0.5" is probably better from all standpoints anyway but it's merely to illustrate the point.

Apart from that problem is is not very diffcult to translate IDL "analysis" code into fortran-90. Graphical interfaces are another matter and would need an "IDL graphics & widgets library".

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