
Subject: Re: [Q] readf into an array error
Posted by [peter](#) on Fri, 02 Feb 1996 08:00:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Iarla Kilbane-Dawe (iarla@atm.ch.cam.ac.uk) wrote:

: Hello,

: why does IDL give me an error when I try to do?

: a=fltarr(10)

: i = 0

: readf,unit,a(i)

This is due to the argument passing mechanism used in IDL. If an array is passed to a function, it is passed by reference. If a subarray is passed, it is passed by value, and thus cannot be overwritten.

To accomplish what you want, you need to do

```
temp = a(i)
```

```
readf,unit,temp
```

```
a(i) = temp
```

It is ugly! The syntax gives no clue what is happening, and the manual is exceptionally obscure.

Peter

Peter Webb, HP Labs Medical Dept
E-Mail: peter_webb@hpl.hp.com
Phone: (415) 813-3756
