Subject: Re: bug or feature?
Posted by jameskuyper on Thu, 16 Apr 2009 10:52:46 GMT

lbnc@lbnc.de wrote:
> Hi there,
>
> in the IDL 6.3 documentation it says:
>
> Dollar Sign ($)
> The dollar sign at the end of a line indicates that the current
> statement is continued on the following line. The dollar sign
> character can appear anywhere a space is legal except within a string
> constant or between a function name and the first open parenthesis.
> Any number of continuation lines are allowed.
>
> So I do:
>
> IDL>plot, indgen(23), indgen(23), xminor = 4
>
> Lovely! However:
>
> IDL>plot, indgen(23), indgen(23), xminor $
> plot, indgen(23), indgen(23), xminor $
> ^
> IDL: PLOT: Incorrect number of arguments.

You have just given the plot command 7 arguments. The $ character makes
the above pair of lines equivalent to a single line:

plot, indgen(23), indgen(23), xminor plot, indgen(23), indgen(23), xminor

I hope you can understand why IDL complains about that command?

> IDL>plot, indgen(23), indgen(23), xminor = $
> IDL> 4
>
> So anyway, seems like the documentation is wrong. Maybe. Depends how
> you define "string constant" but I would not include the assign
> operator "=" as part of it.

I don't see how you reach that conclusion. String constants have nothing