
Subject: Re: scalar system variable as single element array
Posted by [Lajos Foldy](#) on Mon, 14 May 2012 06:23:24 GMT
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On Monday, May 14, 2012 1:58:52 AM UTC+2, alx wrote:

> Because, in IDL, as far as I know, scalar and array are two different
> things!

As I wrote scalars can be considered as single element array (in subscript expressions). From IDL help:

Notice that because a scalar can be considered a single element array, subscripting a scalar with -1 (indicating the last element of the array) is equivalent to subscripting the scalar with 0 (indicating the first element of the array). For example:

```
scalar = 3
```

```
PRINT, scalar, scalar[0], scalar[-1]
```

IDL prints:

```
3 3 3
```

You can even write `scalar[0, 0:0, *, -1:-1:1]`. Now replace scalar with !PI.

regards,
Lajos
