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Subject: Problem running functions

Posted by [laura.hike](#) on Tue, 10 Sep 2013 01:15:57 GMT

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This is a problem I've had before several times that has caused me to change all my functions to procedures. This time I refuse! The basic problem is that I write a function, test it, have it work fine, then try to use it in a real program and it fails, generally with "Variable is undefined". Here are the details:

I have a directory for IDL functions and procedures I have written. Every new code I write starts out with the line adding this directory to my path: `!path = '/home/disk/margaret/idl:' + !path`

I wrote two new and very short functions in this directory. I tested them using a little program in a completely different directory: `/home/dingo/2/snowmelt/MODIS.SW/data` I ran this from the IDL command line, not IDLDE. They ran fine and gave the answers I expected.

Then I switched to a different directory (`/home/dingo/2/ceres.syn/ed3a`) and started writing the full program I intended. I included use of one of the functions. When I tested the new program, I got the "Variable is undefined" error. WTF?? I checked the path, I checked the spelling and case of the function name, etc., but no luck. The typical error I read about on line is an order of compilation error, but I don't see where there should be any issue if the function worked fine in the test program. I mean, the new code just loads some variables from a file, then calls the function to linearly interpolate two of the values. How can the order be incorrect?

Interestingly, I went back and tried to rerun the test program. I moved a copy to the second work directory (ceres etc.) and got an all-new error message: "Only 8 subscripts allowed." Huh?? I then tried running the test program in the directory where I had written it and it had previously worked fine and now also got the "Only 8 subscripts allowed." message. Note: I restart IDL `_every_` time I run a program, so the memory is cleared.

(Don't ask me why I wrote the test code in a different directory. I must have just confused my terminal windows.)

Should I just give up again?? I was so careful and methodical....

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