
Subject: Re: structure references
Posted by [spluque](#) on Mon, 02 Dec 2013 01:18:36 GMT
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On Sun, 1 Dec 2013 11:52:25 -0800 (PST),
wlandsman <wlandsman@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Sunday, December 1, 2013 1:33:03 PM UTC-5, Sebastian Luque wrote:

>> Hi,

> In general, a structure contains elements of different types
> (e.g. string types) so

> x.(*)=20

> isn't allowed. Instead of a structure, you might look at the HASH()
> syntax which allows one to specify multiple hashes in a single call:

```
IDL> a = hash('a',double(0),'b',double(0), c:'string' ) a[['a','b']] =  
IDL> 20.0d print,a  
> c: string field a: 20.000000 b: 20.000000
```

Thanks, hashes do seem attractive for these purposes, however it's a relatively new data type, so would require major changes in other parts of the code. I might have to bite the bullet and stick to arrays, and having code that looks like this:

```
FUNCTION FOO, A  
    return, [A*2, A^2, A^0.5]  
END
```

```
:: Option 1  
PRO BAR, B  
    x=foo(b)  
    x_dbl=x[0]  
    x_sqr=x[1]  
    x_sqrt=x[2]  
    ... LOTS OF OPERATIONS WITH x_dbl, x_sqr, x_sqrt, x[*]  
END
```

```
:: Option 2  
PRO BAR, B  
    x=foo(b)  
    ... LOTS OF OPERATIONS WITH x[0], x[1], x[2], x[*]  
END
```

No problem, I personally prefer something like the latter but with a little more meaningful nomenclature.

--
Seb
