Subject: Dictionary error does not generate error
Posted by Helder Marchetto on Fri, 24 Oct 2014 11:12:13 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Hi,
the help the dictionary() function states at the end (from
http://www.exelisvis.com/docs/DICTIONARY.html):

;*** Start citation ***
Difference between Dictionary and IDL Structures
Unlike IDL structures, when indexing into an array within a dictionary, you can not use the "dot"
notation to retrieve the key's value and then index into the "dot" value. This is because the
DICTIONARY is implemented as a "container" of data pointers instead of a structure that is laid
out directly into memory. For example:
str = {data: FINDGEN(10)}
PRINT, str.data
PRINT, str.data[2:5] ; this works

dict = DICTIONARY('data', FINDGEN(10))
PRINT, dict.data ; this works
PRINT, dict.data[2:5] ; this will fail with an error
PRINT, dict['data', [2:5]] ; this works correctly
;*** end citation ***

If I insert the dictionary part in IDL 8.4, I get:

IDL> dict = DICTIONARY('data', FINDGEN(10))
IDL> PRINT, dict.data ; this works
IDL> PRINT, dict.data[2:5] ; this will fail with an error
IDL> PRINT, dict['data', [2:5]] ; this works correctly
   0.000000   1.00000   2.00000   3.00000   4.00000   5.00000   6.00000   7.00000
  8.00000   9.00000
   2.00000   3.00000   4.00000   5.00000
   2.00000   3.00000   4.00000   5.00000

To me, that works just as the structure (correctly, should I say?).

Has this been repaired in 8.4 as compared to 8.3 or previous versions? Or are there other
problems connected with indexing of dictionaries?

It's quite important I get this straight, because I'm using dictionaries quite intensively.

Thanks,
Helder