
Subject: Bug or desired behavior in lambda functions?
Posted by [penteado](#) on Mon, 08 Jun 2015 17:34:09 GMT
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Hello,

Despite what the documentation might suggest, and one might expect, it seems there is no way to use string variables to make lambda functions.

If I try to make a lambda function with the code inside lambda(), all is well:

```
IDL> l=lambda('x: x^2')
IDL> l(2)
      4
```

However, if I put the same code in a string and pass it to lambda, it does not accept the code:

```
IDL> expr='x: x^2'
IDL> l=lambda(expr)
% LAMBDA: Code must be of the form "arg1,arg2,... : statement"
```

I expect this is caused by IDL parser's special behavior when it encounters lambda(), which is what allows this

```
IDL> l=lambda(x: x^2)
```

So I think when I put a variable name inside the lambda() call, the parser thinks is a string literal, and tries to parse the variable name as code.

Is this intended behavior, or a bug?

Paulo
