
Subject: Re: Imaginary is narrow minded
Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 02 Sep 1997 07:00:00 GMT
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Brian Jackel writes:

```
> <Rant>
> I'm stuck with IDL 4.0, and was wondering if the snazzy new version
> still gives this stupid error
>
> % IMAGINARY: Operand must be of complex type:
>
> Alternatively, I'd love to know why it can't just return a zero value.
> Sometimes the argument is going to be real, and it irritates me to add
> the extra call to make sure the argument is complex. IDL functions are
> usually pretty clever about dealing with variable input types, but not here.
> </Rant>
```

Oh, dear, it's one of those days, apparently. Here, Brian, something to cheer you up.

```
FUNCTION Type, variable
types = ['UNDEFINED', 'BYTE', 'INTEGER', 'LONG', 'FLOAT', $
        'DOUBLE', 'COMPLEX', 'STRING', 'STRUCTURE', $
        'DCOMPLEX', 'POINTER', 'OBJECT']
s = Size(variable)
RETURN, types(s(s(0) + 1))
END

IF Type(thatThing) EQ 'COMPLEX' THEN thisThing=Imaginary(thatThing)$
ELSE thisThing = 0
```

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
Customizable IDL Programming Courses
Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com>
