
Subject: IDL 5.2 array definition question.

Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Fri, 25 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Hi,

I'm sure this is a another hoary old chestnut of a question but here goes....

I have an IDL routine that returns the atomic weight of a requested element - defined by symbol, name, or atomic number. I check the validity of all these. Can somebody tell me why - in IDL 5.2 - my array containing the valid symbol names has to be defined like:

```
aw_symbol = ['H','HE','LI','BE','B','C','N','O','F','NE','NA', $
             'MG','AL','SI','P','S','CL','AR','K','CA','SC','TI' ]
aw_symbol = [ aw_symbol, $
             'V','CR','MN','FE','CO','NI','CU','ZN','GA','GE','AS', $
             'SE','BR','KR','RB','SR','Y','ZR','NB','MO','TC','RU' ]
aw_symbol = [ aw_symbol, $
             'RH','PD','AG','CD','IN','SN','SB','TE','I','XE','CS', $
             'BA','LA','CE','PR','ND','PM','SM','EU','GD','TB','DY' ]
aw_symbol = [ aw_symbol, $
             'HO','ER','TM','YB','LU','HF','TA','W','RE','OS','IR', $
             'PT','AU','HG','TL','PB','BI','PO','AT','RN','FR','RA' ]
aw_symbol = [ aw_symbol, $
             'AC','TH','PA','U','NP','PU','AM','CM','BK','CF','ES', $
             'FM','MD','NO','LR','RF','DB','SG','BH','HS','MT',    $
             'UUN', $
             'UUU', $
             'UUU' ]
```

instead of :

```
aw_symbol = ['H','HE','LI','BE','B','C','N','O','F','NE','NA', $
             'MG','AL','SI','P','S','CL','AR','K','CA','SC','TI', $
             'V','CR','MN','FE','CO','NI','CU','ZN','GA','GE','AS', $
             'SE','BR','KR','RB','SR','Y','ZR','NB','MO','TC','RU', $
             'RH','PD','AG','CD','IN','SN','SB','TE','I','XE','CS', $
             'BA','LA','CE','PR','ND','PM','SM','EU','GD','TB','DY', $
             'HO','ER','TM','YB','LU','HF','TA','W','RE','OS','IR', $
             'PT','AU','HG','TL','PB','BI','PO','AT','RN','FR','RA', $
             'AC','TH','PA','U','NP','PU','AM','CM','BK','CF','ES', $
             'FM','MD','NO','LR','RF','DB','SG','BH','HS','MT',    $
             'UUN', $
             'UUU', $
             'UUU' ]
```

which gives me a "%Program code area full" error after about half of the array has been initialised?

IDL 5.3 doesn't exhibit the problem, but I'm still curious.

Thanks for any info

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