Subject: .compile_opt strictarr is persistent?
Posted by Craig Markwardt on Mon, 09 Oct 2006 17:51:27 GMT
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As David so cleverly discovered, I converted MPFIT to square bracket
array subscript notation a few weeks ago. To enforce the new "habit,"
I also placed the following directive inside the function,

```
.compile_opt strictarr
```

which is supposed to "change some of the default rules for compiling
the function or procedure within which the COMPILE_OPT statement
appears," according to the official documentation.

However, since I've made the conversion, I have noticed that any time
I use MPFIT, and *then* use round parentheses notation on the command
line, IDL complains about syntax errors.

According to the documentation, the compile option should be limited
to the function where the option appears. However, this compile
option seems to "bleeding" into the command line.

For example, see how round parentheses work fine,

```
IDL> a = dblarr(10)
IDL> print, a(4:*)
      0.0000000      0.0000000      0.0000000      0.0000000      0.0000000
      0.0000000
```

Then in the same session, we compile MPFIT and round parens no longer work.

```
IDL> .comp mpfit
...
IDL> print, a(4:*)

print, a(4:*)
         ^
% Syntax error.
```

Any idea what's going on here. Is IDL really being that silly?

Should I put the .compile_opt statement *within* each individual
function in the module?

This problem applies to IDL 5.6-6.3.

Thanks,
Craig

[ I should say that about half the people I work with still use the
round parentheses notation.  It's very confusing to them to have the
behavior of IDL change dramatically depending on whether they use
MPFIT or not. ]

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