
Subject: Weirdest Error Ever

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 18 Oct 2006 17:37:13 GMT

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Folks,

I've been working this morning on an error that is so weird I'm beginning to think it is possible I have completely lost my mind.

The error occurs in my COLORBAR routine. I have two files. The files are identical, except for the following line.

File that works perfectly:

```
bar = BYTSCL(bar, TOP=(ncolors-1 < (255-bottom))) + bottom
```

File that fails:

```
bar = BYTSCL(bar, TOP=(ncolors-1) < (255-bottom)) + bottom
```

In both files, the following three lines follow the line above:

```
IF Keyword_Set(reverse) THEN BEGIN
  bar = Reverse(bar,1)
ENDIF
```

The variable bar is defined originally like this:

```
bar = BINDGEN(ncolors) # REPLICATE(1B, 20)
```

where ncolors is 256, so it is a 256 by 20 byte array. The variable bottom is 0.

The error occurs on the line containing REVERSE. Here is the error:

```
IDL> Colorbar, /Reverse
```

```
Subscript range values of the form low:high must be >= 0, < size,
  with low <= high: REVERSE.
```

```
Error occurred at: COLORBAR      286 C:\RS\IDL Course\colorbar.pro
      $MAIN$
```

```
Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

Oddly, REVERSE, which is an IDL library routine is *not* compiled when the error occurs, and I am certain the error is not coming from REVERSE, because I can't step into REVERSE as I try to debug the program. I think the error is a system error from IDL

Even MORE oddly, if I start a fresh session and compile REVERSE before I do anything else, the program that fails works perfectly!! If I start a fresh session and compile the program that fails, then compile REVERSE, then run the program, it **still** fails.

Here is the result of HELP, /SOURCE in the latter case, which is **identical** to the same command in the former case:

```
IDL> help, /source
Compiled Procedures:
$MAIN$
COLORBAR          C:\RSI\IDL Course\colorbar.pro
```

```
Compiled Functions:
REVERSE           C:\RSI\IDL62\lib\reverse.pro
```

If I start a fresh session and just try to execute the code that seems to be giving me problems here, I have NO problem!

```
IDL> ncolors=256
IDL> bottom=0
IDL> bar = BINDGEN(ncolors) # REPLICATE(1B, 20)
IDL> bar = BYTSCL(bar, TOP=(ncolors-1) < (255-bottom)) + bottom
IDL> bar = reverse(bar, 1)
Compiled module: REVERSE.
```

Does anyone have the foggiest idea of what could be going on here!?

Cheers,

David

--

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
