
Subject: evaluation of logical expressions

Posted by [Russ Welti](#) on Thu, 21 Sep 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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I've often wondered the reason why the following:

```
IDL> a=0
```

```
IDL> if a and b then print,'yes'
```

```
% Variable is undefined: B.
```

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

Many languages stop evaluating logical expressions as soon as the result can be determined. I'm sure there's a good reason why IDL doesn't, but it means that in my code I use a lot of these:

```
if n_elements(a) GT 0 then $  
    if a EQ 5 then $
```

where I *would* have liked to say:

```
if n_elements(a) GT 0 and a EQ 5 then $
```

Anybody know any background on this?

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