
Subject: Dictionary error does not generate error

Posted by [Helder Marchetto](#) on Fri, 24 Oct 2014 11:12:13 GMT

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Hi,

the help the dictionary() function states at the end (from
<http://www.exelisvis.com/docs/DICTIONARY.html>):

;*** Start citation ***

Difference between Dictionary and IDL Structures

Unlike IDL structures, when indexing into an array within a dictionary, you can not use the "dot" notation to retrieve the key's value and then index into the "dot" value. This is because the DICTIONARY is implemented as a "container" of data pointers instead of a structure that is laid out directly into memory. For example:

```
str = {data: FINDGEN(10)}
PRINT, str.data
PRINT, str.data[2:5] ; this works
```

```
dict = DICTIONARY('data', FINDGEN(10))
PRINT, dict.data ; this works
PRINT, dict.data[2:5] ; this will fail with an error
PRINT, dict['data', [2:5]] ; this works correctly
;*** end citation ***
```

If I insert the dictionary part in IDL 8.4, I get:

```
IDL> dict = DICTIONARY('data', FINDGEN(10))
IDL> PRINT, dict.data ; this works
IDL> PRINT, dict.data[2:5] ; this will fail with an error
IDL> PRINT, dict['data', [2:5]] ; this works correctly
 0.000000   1.000000   2.000000   3.000000   4.000000   5.000000   6.000000   7.000000
 8.000000   9.000000
 2.000000   3.000000   4.000000   5.000000
 2.000000   3.000000   4.000000   5.000000
```

To me, that works just as the structure (correctly, should I say?).

Has this been repaired in 8.4 as compared to 8.3 or previous versions? Or are there other problems connected with indexing of dictionaries?

It's quite important I get this straight, because I'm using dictionaries quite intensively.

Thanks,
Helder

Subject: Re: Dictionary error does not generate error

Posted by [Fabzi](#) on Fri, 24 Oct 2014 11:53:28 GMT

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IDL 8.3:

```
IDL> dict = DICTIONARY('data', FINDGEN(10))
IDL> PRINT, dict.data[2:5]
% Subscripts are not allowed with object properties.
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
IDL> PRINT, (dict.data)[2:5]
2.00000 3.00000 4.00000 5.00000
```

IF the syntax: dict.data[2:5] now works in 8.4, this would be so great!

The use of () makes nested dictionaries really cumbersome to use

Subject: Re: Dictionary error does not generate error

Posted by [Helder Marchetto](#) on Fri, 24 Oct 2014 12:02:56 GMT

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On Friday, October 24, 2014 1:53:31 PM UTC+2, Fabien wrote:

> IDL 8.3:
>
> IDL> dict = DICTIONARY('data', FINDGEN(10))
> IDL> PRINT, dict.data[2:5]
> % Subscripts are not allowed with object properties.
> % Execution halted at: \$MAIN\$
> IDL> PRINT, (dict.data)[2:5]
> 2.00000 3.00000 4.00000 5.00000
>
> IF the syntax: dict.data[2:5] now works in 8.4, this would be so great!
> The use of () makes nested dictionaries really cumbersome to use

Well, it's looking good in 8.4, so as you said... one can get rid of quite some (). Good.

Cheers,
Helder
