
Subject: Dictionary error does not generate error
Posted by [Helder Marchetto](#) on Fri, 24 Oct 2014 11:12:13 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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  1.00000  2.00000  3.00000  4.00000  5.00000  6.00000  7.00000
  8.00000  9.00000
  2.00000  3.00000  4.00000  5.00000
  2.00000  3.00000  4.00000  5.00000
```

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

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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
