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Subject: Re: functions considered as variables

Posted by [Andy Loughe](#) on Wed, 04 Mar 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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gbust@arlut.utexas.edu wrote:

>  
> This might be related to my previous post - I don't know. Anyway, I am  
> buzzing away, my driver code calling other routines just fine. I have  
> compiled a .pro file that has a bunch of routines in it, and all of a sudden,  
> I am stopped in my driver routine at:  
>       junk = getlatlon(alt\_gps)  
> with the error notice: variable getlatlon not found.  
>  
> So I do a help, and sure enough it says getlatlon is a function. So, before  
> returning to main, i.e. right where the code stopped, I just type the above  
> from the command line - and it works fine. What gives?

What version of IDL are you using?

Maybe the getlatlon function could be "compiled" in your startup.pro.

Also, take a look at this paragraph from IDL's on-line help...

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This problem can be eliminated by using the FORWARD\_FUNCTION statement.  
This statement has the following syntax:

FORWARD\_FUNCTION Name1, Name2, ..., NameN

where Name is the name of a function that has not yet been compiled. Any  
names declared as forward-defined functions will be interpreted as  
functions (instead of as variable names) for the duration of the IDL  
session.

For example, we can resolve the ambiguity in the previous example by  
adding a FORWARD\_FUNCTION definition:

FORWARD\_FUNCTION XYZ                               ;Define XYZ as the name of a  
function that has not yet been compiled.

a = XYZ(1, COLOR=1)                               ;IDL now understands this  
statement to be a function call instead of a bad variable reference.

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"I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us  
with  
sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forego their use."  
-Galileo

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