
Subject: Problems with scalar structures

Posted by [Brian Jackel](#) on Mon, 25 May 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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Greetings

Here's a little problem that I'd appreciate some input on. Consider a simple structure, and an array of those structures:

```
test= {MYSTRUC, name:'mystruct', x:0.0}  
test2= REPLICATE({MYSTRUC},2)
```

Then try the following two operations, and watch the second one fail (at least for version 5.0.2 under IRIX).

```
test2.x= test2.x * [1.0, 2.0]  
test.x= test.x * [1.0]
```

The problem is that "test.x" is a scalar, but multiplied by [1.0] it becomes a FLTARR[1]. Trying to put this back into "test.x" then gives an error. This is one place where IDL doesn't treat a FLTARR[1] the same way as a scalar.

Can anyone suggest a (simple, elegant) way to deal with the generic command

```
test.x= test.x * a
```

where "test.x" and "a" are arrays of length N, and N is sometimes equal to 1?

Brian
