
Subject: Re: IDL data structures question
Posted by [thompson](#) on Thu, 23 Sep 1993 14:22:47 GMT
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jennifer@gaia.arc.nasa.gov (Jennifer Dungan) writes:

> I wonder if someone could help me with a
> programming problem. In IDL or PV-Wave,
> is it possible to create a data structure
> that has two dimensions, one containing
> an integer scalar, the other containing
> a vector _of variable length_? Basically,
> I want to be able to index some vectors,
> which are of various lengths, so I can loop
> through them. Seems to me I should be
> able to use structures somehow to create
> pointers, but I can't seem to figure it
> out.

> Any pointers (no pun intended) will be appreciated.

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In IDL you can use anonymous structures to do this. For example:

```
IDL> MYSTRUC = {MYTAG1: SCALAR_VARIABLE, $  
MYTAG2: ARRAY_VARIABLE}
```

Since the structure doesn't have a name, you can create as many of them as you want on the fly, each one with a different array size. The only restriction is that one can't have an anonymous structure within another structure. (Please, please, please RSI remove this restriction. :^).

Bill Thompson
