
Subject: Re: Recursive function/procedure
Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Fri, 23 Apr 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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Tri VU KHAC wrote:

>
> Hi folks,
> How to write a recursive function/procedure ?
> What are programming problems of this technique in IDL ?
> Thanks for help.
> Best regards,
> Tri

since the first question has been answered let me address the second one:

as always with recursive procedures, you must take care not to run into infinite loops (and there is some limitation as to how many recursions you can make although I don't know the number now). Hence, a "safe" recursive procedure would look like this:

```
pro recurse,level
```

```
    MAX_LEVEL = 1000 ; or whatever is reasonable
```

```
    if (n_elements(level) eq 0) then level = 0 ; main entry level
```

```
    if (level gt MAX_LEVEL) then begin
```

```
        message,'Maximum number of iterations exceeded!' ; optional +
```

```
    ,/Continue
```

```
        return
```

```
    endif
```

```
    ; *** do your stuff here
```

```
    recurse,level+1
```

```
    ; *** do more stuff here
```

```
    return
```

```
end
```

Regards,
Martin.

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