
Subject: Re: Object Oriented programming question
Posted by [mallors](#) on Fri, 23 Apr 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <372074A1.3FD713D7@astro.estec.esa.nl>,
>
> Oh that's pretty simple (sorry I shouldn't say this ;-) - a good
> way to see how is the file lib/trackball__define.pro
>
> at definition of an object like trackball, the ::init method
> is called which may be defined in such a way that you can specify
> required and optional parameters - remember that you set the
> object using self.(whatever...)
>
> it is a very good (and probably the only) way to have all object
> related methods in one file like the above examples trackball__define.pro
> follow stricktly the order:
> a) first arbitrary methods specialized for this object only
> b) typical, more general methods (SetProperty, GetPro....
> c) the init method
> d) finally, the define method
>
> IDL does then the rest - if you need another example like
> creating a complete atom by a set of objects starting from
> simple spheres, mail me (only an example, not fully done)

There is no problem defining object methods each in their own files. For larger objects with many methods, I prefer to put each method in its own file, and let IDL's automatic compilation do the rest. Objects can be defined in the file "obj__define.pro", and methods in "obj__method1.pro", "obj__method2.pro", etc.

The only thing to watch our for is under case-sensitive operating systems, you must name your files in all lower case, although within IDL you can use case. For example, I might have the object method called "plotData", which would be placed in the file "obj__plotdata.pro". But for the implementation, I would typically write

```
PRO obj::plotData
.
.
.
END
```

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