
Subject: Re: Indexing structures of different type
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Thu, 17 Jun 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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Donglai Gong Rm3110 x1569 <donglai@eden.rutgers.edu> writes:

>
> Hi, does anyone know how to index structures of different types in IDL?
>
> REPLICATE won't work since it creates an array of the same structure, so
> I'm thinking of doing a structure of structures. However I don't know
> how to index them for use in a loop. Thanks in advance.

If you are **really** trying to glue a bunch of different types together, you should probably structures as you say.

How to loop over them? This is easily done with a little magic:

```
:: Initialize your structure  
s = {u:0L, v:0D, w:intarr(5), x:{a:1, b:2}, y:'hello'}
```

```
n = n_tags(s)  
for i = 0L, n-1 do begin  
  ;; The magic is here:  
  f = s.(i)
```

```
  ;; Operate on f here:  
  print, f  
endfor
```

However, you should be aware that IDL structures are pretty slow to operate on, especially when you build large ones. [Some versions of IDL have a limit on the number of elements in a structure too.]

Good luck,
Craig

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