
Subject: Re: objarr

Posted by [steinhh](#) on Fri, 03 Sep 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <MPG.1238930f48dc31b9898da@news.frii.com>

davidf@dfanning.com (David Fanning) writes:

>

> bjackel@phys.ucalgary.ca (bjackel@phys.ucalgary.ca) writes:

>

>> Am I correct in fearing that the only

>> way to get what I want is with something like this?

>>

>> magpile= DBLARR(N_ELEMENTS(pile))

>> FOR indx=0,N_ELEMENTS(pile)-1 DO magpile[indx]=

>> pile[indx]->magnitude()

>

> I'm afraid so. :-(

And I don't blame RSI for making it so. Just think about it - an object array can be pointing to as many different object types as the number of elements. There's no guarantee that all of them have the particular method in question. This goes for procedure methods as well as function methods.

Further, even if all the objects are of a single type, a function method may return wildly different types of results, depending on the internal state of the object! So, there's no way for IDL to guess the type of array needed to store the result.

OK, so there are ways to circumvent this, like determining the type after all calls have been made. But, the scenario also introduces a tricky problem with e.g. error reporting. I guess you'd only get messages like

% Attempt to call undefined method: 'BLAH::MAGNITUDE()'

and various type conversion errors..

But I agree, it's annoyingly different from what we're used to.

Regards,

Stein Vidar
