
Subject: Re: Multiple values from a function?

Posted by [meron](#) on Tue, 04 Jul 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <3961EFA8.49657FB6@mathstat.dal.ca>, Simon de Vet <simon@mathstat.dal.ca> writes:

> I have a function that does a whole lot (it started out as an
> independent program). It works very well when returning one of it's
> calculated arrays.
>
> It also produces a number of other arrays which I'd like to have access
> to. Unfortunately, I have discovered that a function can only return
> one value.
>
> How can I get the other arrays out of it? The code is intertwined, so it
> would be hard to break into 2 or 3 independent functions.
>
You can easily return them using keyword parameters. Lets say that
your function FUN calculates 3 arrays (internally known as XARR, YARR
and ZARR) and returns XARR. Then, modify the definition of the
function to something like

```
Fuction FUN, ... ..., second = yarr, third = zarr
```

```
....  
  
    return, xarr  
end
```

Now, if you'll issue a call like

```
u = Fun( .... ,second = v, third = w)
```

then after the call U will contain the calculated XARR, V will contain
YARR, w will contain ZARR. This can be extended indefinitely. Note
that neither U not V or W need to be defined at all, prior to the
call.

Mati Meron | "When you argue with a fool,
meron@cars.uchicago.edu | chances are he is doing just the same"
