Subject: Re: Problem combining structures
Posted by Craig Markwardt on Fri, 07 Sep 2001 22:56:03 GMT
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Jacco de Zwart <effuh1@nih.gov> writes:

> Hi,
>
> I have a problem combining two structures, which contain different tag
> names, if one of them is a structure-array. Example:
>
> ### I make three structures: aa, bb and cc
> IDL> aa={a:1,b:2}
> IDL> bb={c:aa}
> IDL> cc=replicate(bb,10)
> IDL> help,aa,bb,cc
> AA   STRUCT   = -> <Anonymous> Array[1]
> BB   STRUCT   = -> <Anonymous> Array[1]
> CC   STRUCT   = -> <Anonymous> Array[10]
>
> ### Assume I want to make a structure which combines aa and bb
> IDL> dd=create_struct(aa,bb)
> IDL> help,dd,/str
> ** Structure <8237944>, 3 tags, length=8, refs=1:
>   A   INT   1
>   B   INT   2
>   C   STRUCT   -> <Anonymous> Array[1]
> ### This obviously works fine
>
> ### However, combinging aa and cc in this way doesn't work
> IDL> dd=create_struct(aa,cc)
> % CREATE_STRUCT: Expression must be a scalar in this context: CC.
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$

Short answer: you can't use CREATE_STRUCT to merge arrays of
structures. CREATE_STRUCT is only useful to merge scalar structures
together. Look at your first example, which is, when expressed
explicitly:

```
  dd = create_struct({a:1,b:2},{c:aa})
```

which becomes:

```
  dd =            {a:1,b:2 , c:aa}
```

I just removed the extra punctuation from the line above to make it
clear. But in your second example, CC is an array, and I just don't
know what that means. For example:

dd = create_struct({a:1,b:2},[{c:a1},{c:a2},{c:a3}])

Now it's not so simple to just combine the structures together. What is definitely not clear is that this should somehow end up being:

dd = {a:1,b:2,c:[a1,a2,a3]}

That is another beast entirely. You go through a lot of methods that *did* produce what you wanted, so why don't you use one of those. :-)

Craig

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