
Subject: Re: Defining Integer Field in a Structure

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Wed, 07 Nov 2001 03:07:42 GMT

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From: "Harvey Rarback" <rarback@slac.stanford.edu>

>>>> PRO newstruct__define.pro

>>>> struct = {NEWSTRUCT, a:0, b:0.0, c:fltarr(10)}

>>>> END

>> Certainly an instance of this structure gets created

>> in this routine, but its existence is fleeting. ...

> Yes. It's what I thought was happening. What bothered me

> was the overhead in creating the temporary structure.

First, the overhead is very small unless there are large amounts of data in the structure. (And it's generally bad practice to include large amounts of data in a named structure, because this is inflexible, so one generally uses pointers instead.)

Second, the NEWSTRUCT__DEFINE procedure is normally run only once, when IDL is asked to create a named structure and doesn't have a definition for it.

Of course, you can run it yourself as often as you like but this doesn't achieve a great deal...

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