Subject: Re: Object programming with data...
Posted by Craig Markwardt on Sun, 19 May 2002 21:12:38 GMT
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Randall Skelton <rhskelto@atm.ox.ac.uk> writes:
> On a slightly different topic, is it possible to define a function that
> takes an arbitrary number of parameters? i.e. how do I write a function
> 'sum' that takes 'n' variables and sums them? (yes, in this case I could
> use 'total' but that's not the point...)

No fair slipping this at the end of an unrelated post! I usually
don't read David's "gosh golly" articles :-)

The answer to your question is no, and yes. No, there is no construct
in IDL that makes handling an arbitrary number of arguments easy. On
the other hand, yes, it is possible to parse them if you specify all
the parameters explicitly, as in,

```
PRO MYTOTAL, X1, X2, X3, X4, X5, X6, X7, X8, X9, X10
```

and so on up to the maximum of 64 (?). Then you access them using the
EXECUTE() function.

```
for i = 0, n_params()-1 do begin
  dummy = execute('x = x + x'+strtrim(i,2))
endfor
```

Craig

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Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response
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