
Subject: Re: A very simple FORMAT question
Posted by [Christopher Lee](#) on Sat, 24 Apr 2004 11:26:52 GMT
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> Any explanation for these extra brackets? (for IDL, ifc, ...)
>
> Cheers,
>
> A.

The answer to this lies with our old friend Google....

<http://www.hef.kun.nl/~pfk/teaching/fortran/ftn-AB.html>

"The rule for rescanning formats is complicated by the presence of brackets surrounding groups of format codes. The full rule for rescan is as follows. If there are no nested brackets, rescan returns to the beginning of the format. Otherwise, the rescan returns to the left bracket which matches the right bracket nearest to the closing bracket of the format. If this left bracket is preceded by a repeat count, this count takes effect during the rescan."

so...

```
print, findgen(6),format=(i," A",i," B",i," C")  
    0 A      1 B      2 C  
    3 A      4 B      5 C
```

```
print, findgen(6),format=(i," A",(i," B"),i," C")  
    0 A      1 B      2 C  
    3 B      4 C  
    5 B
```

If you want the read to include the terms before the first `_real_` brackets in a repeat, you need an extra set of opening brackets.

Chris.
