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Subject: Re: structures still confusing  
Posted by [btt](#) on Tue, 13 Jun 2006 14:54:00 GMT  
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Martin Rother wrote:

```
> Hi Gurus,
>
> finally something, where I don't know,
> if it's odd idl syntax or not...
>
> something about structures.
>
> FUNCTION test_struct
>
> s = [{ m : [1L, 2L, 3L], n :1L }]
>
> FOR i = 1L, 2L DO BEGIN
>   ;
>   s = [s, { m : [1L, 2L, 3L], n : i }]
>   ;
> ENDFOR
>
> return, s
>
> END
>
> this creates an array of structures:
>
> (X). s = test_struct()
> (X). help,/struct,s
> ** Structure <fa330>, 2 tags, length=16, data length=16, refs=1:
> M      LONG      Array[3]
> N      LONG      1
> (X). print, n_elements(s)
>      3
> (X).
>
> so far ok, I guess. but
>
> (X). help,s.m
> <Expression> LONG      = Array[3, 3]
> (X). print, s.m
>      1      2      3
>      1      2      3
>      1      2      3
> (X). print, s.m[0]
>      1      1      1
> (X). print, s.m[1]
```

```

>      2      2      2
> (X). print, s.m[2]
>      3      3      3
>
> is a *bit* confusing. isn't it?
>
>
> best regards,
> martin.

```

Hi,

Perhaps you are looking to get the entire m array of the ith element in vector s?

```

IDL> s = [{ m : [1L, 2L, 3L], n : 1L }]
IDL> FOR i = 1L, 2L DO s = [s, { m : [1L, 2L, 3L], n : i }]
IDL> print, s[0].m
      1      2      3

```

Which is different than asking for the ith elements of the m array in ALL the structures in the vector s.

```

IDL> print, s.m[0]
      1      1      1

```

Or how about the ith element of the m array in the jth element of the vector s?

```

IDL> print, s[0].m[0]
      1

```

I agree it can be confusing (wait till you have pointers in there!) but is very handy sometimes, too.

Ben