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Subject: Re: Removing fields from a structure

Posted by [Allan Whiteford](#) on Fri, 02 Feb 2007 02:48:31 GMT

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M. Katz wrote:

> I was wondering if there's a simple way to remove a field from a  
> structure?  
>  
> I can envision a manual way:  
> 0) creating a new structure variable for the result  
> 1) reading the original's tag names  
> 2) stepping through tag by tag using indexed value references, like a.  
> (i)  
> 3) using create\_struct() to put the tags and values into the new  
> structure, one by one, except for the tag(s) we're removing.  
>  
> Does anyone have a more elegant suggestion?  
> M. Katz  
>

Sorry, nothing more elegant from me. But here's some code I wrote a while ago which I think pretty much does what you've suggested.

pro remove\_tag,struct,tagname

```
searchtag=strupcase(tagname)
tagnames=tag_names(struct)
a=[-1]
if n_elements(tagname) eq 1 then a=[a,where(tagnames $
ne searchtag)] else for i=0,n_elements(tagnames)-1 do $
if (where(searchtag eq tagnames[i]))[0] eq -1 then a=[a,i]
if n_elements(a) eq 1 then return
if a[1] eq -1 then return
newstruct=create_struct(tagnames[a[1]],struct.(a[1]))
if n_elements(a) gt 2 then for i=2,n_elements(a)-1 $
do newstruct=create_struct(newstruct,tagnames[a[i]],struct.(a[i ]))
struct=newstruct
end
```

tagname can be a string or string array. Removing multiple tags by calling the routine multiple times was a real time overhead which is why you can give it an array of tags. struct is the input structure which will be modified on output.

Sorry about the lack of documentation, poor formatting and calling an important variable 'a'. I never distributed this code - it's still sitting around waiting to be put in to CVS to replace the old version which could only do one tag at a time.

The SSW code is probably better and I'm sure the loop gurus can remove the loops and possibly not call `create_struct` multiple times which is the big CPU time overhead.

Thanks,

Allan

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