
Subject: What is the main difference between a script and a procedure?

Posted by [mystea](#) on Wed, 03 Oct 2007 07:22:35 GMT

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Hello All,

I am pretty much a novice in IDL. Recently I just learned how to write/execute a IDL script file. (i.e. @filename)

I became a little curious(or more properly, confused) about the difference between a procedure and a script. I have my own thoughts but would like to hear opinions from experts if possible.

As far as I can tell, a script:

1. Can't accept any arguments and can't take any extended loops.
2. It can recognize any variable that exists in the current session because it behaves just like a a list of commands in sequence.

On the other hand, a procedure:

1. Can accept arguments, but can't recognize any variables which exist in current IDL session.

However, I often run into the situation that I need a code which can recognize variables in current session *as well as* taking arguments. Is it possible to write such a code?
