Subject: Re: Starting a for loop within an if loop
Posted by David Fanning on Thu, 20 Dec 2007 04:14:48 GMT

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Mat Smith writes:

> I'm trying to write a program with some keywords, so that depending
> upon my mood I can alter what it does.
>
> What I want to do is most of the time just run the program, but I want
> to include an option to do a for loop.
>
> Basically, I need something like:
>
> IF keyword_set(mc) THEN BEGIN
> FOR i=0,n-1 DO BEGIN
> t=d[i]
> ENDIF
>
> and later in the program
>
> IF keyword_set(mc) THEN BEGIN
> ENDFOR
> ENDIF
>
> Thus the rest of the program runs normally with and without the for
> loop (it just uses t).
> However, IDL doesn't understand this - it wants an ENDFOR before the
> ENDIF.
>
> Any thoughts on how I can get around this? It's entirely possible that
> I'm missing something obvious.

It's possible. Have you taught yourself to program?
Sometimes there can be gaps. :-)

Anyway, I think I would do something like this:

```
   IF keyword_set(mc) THEN endloop = n ELSE endloop = 1
   FOR j=0,endloop-1 DO BEGIN
    ...
   ENDFOR
```

This way, if your keyword is set, you will do the loop n times,
otherwise you will do the loop just once.

Cheers,

David
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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")