Subject: Re: "foreach" loops in IDL
Posted by Vince Hradil on Tue, 20 Jan 2009 22:57:46 GMT

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On Jan 20, 3:11 pm, JD Smith <jdtsmith.nos...@yahoo.com> wrote:
> On Jan 16, 3:43 pm, Vince Hradil <vincehra...@gmail.com> wrote:
>
>> I would have to agree with Paolo here. The for-loop syntax is simple
>> and clear. The @do @done really obfuscates the code.
>
> That's because it's an unsupported add-on. If IDL included foreach at
> the language level, which would be clearer:
>
> for i=0,n_elements(x)-1 do begin
>   elem=x[i]
>   print, my_function(elem)
> end
>
> or
>
> foreach elem in x
>   print, my_function(elem)
> end
>
> When treating a vector as a list, requiring an extra loop variable is
> pure syntactic overhead. Not to mention that the loop variable could
> overflow, could get changed in the body of the loop or, most commonly,
> risks nested sub-loops accidentally re-using the same loop variable.
> None of these happens with a foreach construct.
>
> JD

Oh, I agree - a foreach loop would be great to have in IDL. My only
point was that add-on is confusing to read, and I would prefer to
write more portable code that uses as much built in functionality as
possible.