Subject: Re: "foreach" loops in IDL
Posted by JD Smith on Tue, 20 Jan 2009 21:11:12 GMT
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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