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Subject: Re: Simple PRO in a loop question  
Posted by [Maarten\[1\]](#) on Fri, 14 Aug 2009 14:56:52 GMT  
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On Aug 14, 4:37 pm, a <rmc...@gmail.com> wrote:

> Let me preface by saying I'm still getting used to IDL syntax/best  
> coding.  
> I have a simple main level pro that calls a lower pro in a for loop.  
> If this lower pro doesn't find data, it will return before completing  
> it's usual task. So I naively thought I could check the "outputs" of  
> the lower pro to see if it completed or not. My problem is the 2nd  
> time in the for loop the "outputs" of the lower pro are defined with  
> the 1st iteration outputs, so I can't test the outputs for being  
> undefined. I'm thinking in MATLAB, and need help thinking in IDL. I  
> could change the pro to a function, but I really don't like outputting  
> everything in a single structure.

There are several solutions to this problem. I prefer to change the procedure to a function anyway, using the return value for a return status, and the parameters to the function as before.

Another solution is to use Coyote's UNDEFINE, to undefine the input variables at the end of the for-loop, and proceed as before.

A final one is to add a status keyword to the procedure, and return a status value through this keyword.

And for Spanish inquisition-like final: call message to issue an error message (and either use proper error handling, or just hope for the best).

Best,

Maarten

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