
Subject: Re: Trouble with a loop
Posted by [pgrigis](#) on Fri, 14 Aug 2009 14:02:07 GMT
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On Aug 14, 9:14 am, Allan Whiteford

<allan.remove...@phys.remove.strath.ac.remove.uk> wrote:

> David Baker wrote:

>> I'm hoping someone on here maybe able to help me with a problem i'm

>> having trying to construct the following type of loop

>

>> FOR i=0,end DO BEGIN

>> IF x GT y THEN BEGIN

>> FOR j=0,end DO BEGIN

>> some program statements

>> ENDFOR

>> end=end-1

>> b=b+1

>> i=i-1

>> ENDIF

>> ENDFOR

>

>> Now the problem i'm facing is that although the i value is correctly

>> changed IDL is unaware that the limits of the for loop have been

>> decrease (i,e the value end doesn't appear to be updated when checking

>> i against it for the for loop thus leaving me in a recurring loop.)

>

>> Does anyone have any advice/ideas?

>

>> Many thanks,

>> David

>

> David,

>

> Using a variable called "end" is a really bad idea from the start, it's

> a reserved word.

>

> That aside, you want a "while" construct rather than a "for" construct:

>

> i=0

> while i++ le endvar DO BEGIN

> IF x GT y THEN BEGIN

> FOR j=0,endvar DO BEGIN

> some program statements

> ENDFOR

> endvar=endvar-1

> b=b+1

> i=i-1

> ENDIF

> ENDFOR
>
> It's also poor form and a bit rude to change your loop variable inside
> of a for loop (i.e. your line saying `i=i-1`) although this is normally
> considered ok inside a while.
>
> I suspect you need to take a step back and ask what you're trying to do
> with this code. It's hard for us to tell because we don't know what
> "some program statements" are and how they relate to x and y. It looks
> to me like it's almost "endvar"/"end" which should be the loop variable.
>
> Hope this helps.
>
> Thanks,
>
> Allan

Also, alternatively, if you need `end(var)` to decrease,
in IDL you can do something like:

`for k=10,1,-1 do stuff`

This will make k take the values of 10, 9, ..., 2, 1

Ciao,
Paolo
