
Subject: Re: Trouble with a loop
Posted by [Allan Whiteford](#) on Fri, 14 Aug 2009 13:14:02 GMT
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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
