
Subject: Re: Procedures with variable/dynamic argument list??

Posted by [pgrigis](#) on Fri, 22 Oct 2010 14:26:38 GMT

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On Oct 22, 9:56 am, "Kenneth P. Bowman" <k-bow...@null.edu> wrote:

> In article
> <d5d024b5-fb3e-438e-9277-c4dc032c3...@n24g2000prj.googlegroup s.com >,
>
> SonicKenking <ywa...@gmail.com> wrote:
>> Is it possible in IDL to code a procedure using variable/dynamic
>> argument list?? i.e. the number of arguments is arbitrary and the
>> procedure is able to accept them all with some argument array?
>
>> Similar to the "va_list" in C or "*args" in Python.
>
>> The Print command in IDL is a good example too for accepting arbitrary
>> number of arguments and print them all. Unfortunately, the Print
>> command is not written in IDL, hence no sneak peek of the source code
>> ~~
>
> IDL procedures and functions are flexible about how many
> arguments you provide, as long as you don't pass too many.
>
> You do have to provide at least as many dummy arguments
> in the procedure definition as you intend to use. That is
>
> PRO VAR_ARGS, a1, a2, a3, a4
>
> can be called as
>
> VAR_ARGS, x, y
>
> It is up to the procedure to know what to do in that
> case. (See the N_PARAMS function.)
>
> As far as I know, there is no direct mechanism for
> handling an arbitrary number of arguments other than
> making a list in the procedure/function definition.
>
> Ken

It comes out pretty ugly indeed... here my "prtn" function
that I use to work around my bad spelling (!)
I guess I didn't know about n_params() when I wrote that.

Ciao,
Paolo

```
PRO pritr,a1,a2,a3,_extra=_extra

IF exist(a3) THEN print,a1,a2,a3,_extra=_extra ELSE $
  IF exist(a2) THEN print,a1,a2,_extra=_extra ELSE $
    IF exist(a1) THEN print,a1,_extra=_extra

END

;from solarsoft
function exist,var

return,n_elements(var) ne 0

end
```
