
Subject: Re: C syntax for IDL

Posted by [David Fenyes](#) on Wed, 11 Dec 1996 08:00:00 GMT

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martin@uthscsa.edu (Charles Martin) writes:

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>
> I program mostly in IDL, but every once and a while I program in C. I find
> the switch to be unnecessarily painful. What I would really like is an
> alternative syntax for IDL that would be C-like. For example:
>
> for i=0,10 do begin
>   x(i)=i
> endfor
>
>
> Could become
>
> for (i=0; i<10; i++) {
>   x[i]=i
> }
```

If this is what you want, then try yorick. It has syntax very much like C, with all of the array-handling capabilities of IDL, and probably better numerical libraries (LAPACK, etc. vs. Numerical Recipes) However, it doesn't have quite the array of functions that IDL has, and is weaker on graphing, file formats, etc.

Personally, I don't understand why, given the obvious similarities between IDL and lisp, RSI doesn't provide a lisp syntax as an alternative. The current kludgy syntax could easily be compiled into lisp, and would also provide a path to producing compiled binaries using a linkable runtime library.

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