Subject: static variables
Posted by Jonathan Rogness on Wed, 30 Apr 1997 07:00:00 GMT

Hello,

I've been playing around with the POWELL minimization routine in IDL
(version 4.0). In a nutshell, I've got a model with four parameters,
and I need to solve those parameters so that the error of the model
compared to real world measurements is minimized.

This leads to a problem: my object function simply computes the error
for a given bunch of parameters, but to do this the function needs to
have access to 30+ measurements from a file. I'd rather not read in the
file every time the function is called.

I started out writing in C and using the NAG minimization routines, but
since the calling routines were in IDL I thought it would be nice to
stay in one language. In C the problem was solved by using static
variables; I could use a function to read in the measurements, and every
time it was called subsequently it would remember the previous values.
I haven't run across anything like that in IDL.

Any tips/suggestions/thoughts on how to do this would be greatly
appreciated. Sorry if it's a little vague - I don't want to bore
anybody with the details unless it's absolutely necessary. ;-)

Jonathan Rogness
rogness@sg1.cr.usgs.gov