
Subject: Re: RETURNING VALUES FROM FUNCTIONS

Posted by [Helder Marchetto](#) on Fri, 10 Jul 2015 14:49:33 GMT

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On Friday, July 10, 2015 at 4:14:23 PM UTC+2, Priyadarsini Sivaraj wrote:

> Hello everyone,

>

> I would like to know if there is any way to return two values from a function.

>

> I have reached a point where its necessary for me to return TWO matrices from a single function. Is there any way that I can do it..?

I know of at least 2 ways of doing that:

1. use parameters:

```
function doubleXY, x, y
x = x*2
y = y*2
return, x
end
```

If you run this this way:

```
x = 3
```

```
y = 5
```

```
print, doubleXY(x,y)
```

```
print, x
```

```
print, y
```

you will find that:

- it prints 6, 6, 10. Now x and y have new values: 6 and 10.

2) the other way is to return a structure:

```
function doubleXY, x, y
return, {x:x*2,y:y*2}
end
```

This will return:

```
{
  "X": 6,
  "Y": 10
}
```

That solves your problem, but please next time:

- have a look at the IDL help. It might seem strange, but sometimes you find the answers on your own. This will be a win-win for you. You will solve the problem and *understand" why it is solved.

- give us an example to show your commitment. You've tried "this and that" and could not get "that other thing". It shows us exactly where you're stuck and tells us that you've been trying before asking for help.

- if none of the above work out, then google your problem. I tried that and guess what: I found a better answer than mine:

google "idl return two values from a function"

and this is the first hit for me:

<https://www.physics.wisc.edu/~craigm/idl/archive/msg02654.html>

that actually comes from here:

[https://groups.google.com/forum/#!searchin/comp.lang.idl-pwave/Multiple\\$20values\\$20from\\$20a\\$20function/comp.lang.idl-pwave/94c1udxeE1c/nCwx7WaJ7gMJ](https://groups.google.com/forum/#!searchin/comp.lang.idl-pwave/Multiple$20values$20from$20a$20function/comp.lang.idl-pwave/94c1udxeE1c/nCwx7WaJ7gMJ)

Good luck next time.

Helder
