Subject: Re: IDL Structures

Posted by thompson on Thu, 10 Feb 1994 22:35:13 GMT

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acdmi@kirk.giss.nasa.gov (Daniel M. Israel) writes:

- > I've noticed that IDL seems to treat all structures as arrays of
- > structures.
- > Example:
- > IDL> a={ new_structure, x : 1e0, y : 1e0 }
- > IDL> help, /structure, a
- > A STRUCT = -> Array(1)
- > No matter what I do, I can't get a structure that doesn't think it is part
- > of an array of one element. Now I do some things that require
- > distungishing between scalars and arrays, where structures should be
- > scalars. But IDL thinks all my structures are arrays of one elements. Is
- > this a bug in my version? Or is it a bug in IDL? Or is there some reason
- > why this notation is useful? (Because I have to kludge around it, it is
- > definitely not useful for me.)

As far as I know, this is true of all versions of IDL. I don't know why this is.

Actually, I'm not sure that it's really important to distinguish between scalars and arrays that only have one element. It used to be important, but later versions of IDL have been breaking down the distinctions. I've been simply using the N_ELEMENTS() function lately to distinguish between arrays and "scalars", rather than using the first element of the SIZE() function as I used to do.

Of course, your mileage may vary. :^)

Bill Thompson

Subject: Re: IDL Structures

Posted by stl on Fri, 11 Feb 1994 07:38:50 GMT

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In article <2je7gn\$1kn@kirk.giss.nasa.gov> crdmi@vulcan.giss.nasa.gov writes:

- >
- > I've noticed that IDL seems to treat all structures as arrays of
- > structures.
- >
- > Example:
- > IDL> a={ new_structure, x : 1e0, y : 1e0 }

```
> IDL> help, /structure, a
> A STRUCT = -> Array(1)
>
```

Actually this is kind of nice that they are all treated like arrays. If you need to use the scalar of this, just use a(0), or actually like the other person just mentioned, something like a.x should just return you a scalar (otherwise use a(0).x)

The advantage of this is that when you use replicate on the structure, you don't change from a scalar to an array, ie, very little code change (if any at all)

-stephen

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Stephen C Strebel / SKI TO DIE stl@maz.stl.ch / and Swiss Meteorological Institute, Zuerich / LIVE TO TELL ABOUT IT 01 256 93 85 / (and pray for snow)