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Subject: Re: indexing over structure tags

Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Thu, 19 Apr 2001 17:00:20 GMT

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Randall Skelton wrote:

```
>
> Hello,
>
> Imagine someone has a structure of structures...
>
> ; define the basic structure for each
> sm_struc = {basic_struct, comment: ' ', values: fltarr(nlev)}
>
> ; define the large structure
> data = {big_struct, so4: sm_struc, co2: sm_struc, hcl: sm_struc}
>
> The IDL manual describes how to make an array of the tags in a structure
> using:
>
> ; get the names of the tags
> names = tag_names(data)
>
> so that names = [so4, co2, hcl].
>
> That is all fine. But is it possible to index over the tag names with a
> for-loop?
>
> i.e.  for i=0, n_elements(names)-1 do data.names[i].values = i
>                                     ^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^
```

Maybe

data.names[i].(j) where j=0->N\_TAGS(data.names[i])-1 ??

This works on "single-level" structures but I don't see why it wouldn't work on nested ones.

paulv

--

Paul van Delst            A little learning is a dangerous thing;  
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP        Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring;  
Ph: (301)763-8000 x7274   There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,  
Fax:(301)763-8545        And drinking largely sobers us again.  
paul.vandelst@noaa.gov            Alexander Pope.

---

Subject: Re: indexing over structure tags  
Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Thu, 19 Apr 2001 17:05:43 GMT  
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---

Paul van Delst wrote:

```
>
> Randall Skelton wrote:
>>
>> Hello,
>>
>> Imagine someone has a structure of structures...
>>
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>> sm_struct = {basic_struct, comment: ' ', values: fltarr(nlev)}
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>> i.e. for i=0, n_elements(names)-1 do data.names[i].values = i
>>                      ^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^
>
> Maybe
>
> data.names[i].(j) where j=0->N_TAGS(data.names[i])-1 ??
>
> This works on "single-level" structures but I don't see why it wouldn't work on nested
> ones.
```

Oops, I guess you really wanted something like

```
data.(i).values
```

where i=0->number of molecular names

'Scusi

paulv

--

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paul.vandelst@noaa.gov        Alexander Pope.

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Subject: Re: indexing over structure tags  
Posted by [tam](#) on Thu, 19 Apr 2001 17:16:38 GMT  
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---

Just use the numeric tag syntax for structures.

```
for i=0,n_tags(data)-1 do begin
    data.(i).values = .. some expression ...
endfor
```

where the (i) indicates use the i'th element of the structure.  
So you don't need to use the names at all.

Regards,  
Tom McGlynn

Randall Skelton wrote:

```
>
> Hello,
>
> Imagine someone has a structure of structures...
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> ; define the basic structure for each
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> That is all fine. But is it possible to index over the tag names with a
> for-loop?
>
> i.e. for i=0, n_elements(names)-1 do data.names[i].values = i
```

> ^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^  
>  
> where IDL determines what the appropriate label 'data.name[i].values' is.  
>  
> Thanks,  
> Randall

---

---

Subject: Re: indexing over structure tags  
Posted by [Randall Skelton](#) on Thu, 19 Apr 2001 17:24:09 GMT  
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---

Thanks Tom... I did think of that. However, in this particular case there is some merit in having the name of the structure be a useful and human readable tag. Nobody would be happy trying to remember yet another arbitrary numbering scheme for molecules when they'd rather just type the name ;) My suspicion is that there isn't an easy way to do what I want...

Randall

On Thu, 19 Apr 2001, tam wrote:

> Just use the numeric tag syntax for structures.  
>  
> for i=0,n\_tags(data)-1 do begin  
>     data.(i).values = .. some expresion ...  
> endfor  
>  
> where the (i) indicates use the i'th element of the structure.  
> So you don't need to use the names at all.  
>  
> Regards,  
> Tom McGlynn  
>

---

---

Subject: Re: indexing over structure tags  
Posted by [Vapuser](#) on Thu, 19 Apr 2001 17:36:59 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Randall Skelton <[rshkelto@atm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:rshkelto@atm.ox.ac.uk)> writes:

> Hello,  
>  
> Imagine someone has a structure of structures...  
>  
> ; define the basic structure for each

```

> sm_struct = {basic_struct, comment: ' ', values: fltarr(nlev)}
>
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> for-loop?
>
> i.e.  for i=0, n_elements(names)-1 do data.names[i].values = i
>                                     ^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^
>
>
> where IDL determines what the appropriate label 'data.name[i].values' is.
>
> Thanks,
> Randall
>

```

data.(i) to iterate over that tags of data, and  
data.(i).(j) to iterate over the tags of data.(i)

If each tag is an array, rather than a scalar structure instance, you  
might (probably?) have to pull it out, like this

```

IDL> junk={foo, a:0, b:0l, c:0.0}
IDL> bar={bar, a:replicate({foo},3),b:replicate({foo},4)}
IDL> help,bar,/struct

```

```

** Structure BAR, 2 tags, length=84:
  A          STRUCT  -> FOO Array[3]
  B          STRUCT  -> FOO Array[4]

```

```

IDL> .run
- FOR i=0,1 DO BEGIN
-   FOR j=0,2 DO BEGIN
-     tmp=bar.(i).(j) ;<--- I couldn't find a way to do this inline,
;                       ; but there might be one that I'm missing
-     FOR k=0,n_elements(tmp)-1 DO tmp[k]=(2^(i+1))*(3^(j+1))+k
-     bar.(i).(j)=tmp
-   endfor
- endfor

```

```

- endfor
- end
% Compiled module: $MAIN$.
IDL> print,bar
{
  a = {    6    18   54.0000}
        {    7    19   55.0000}
        {    8    20   56.0000}

  b = {   12   36  108.000}
        {   13   37  109.000}
        {   14   38  110.000}
        {   15   39  111.000}

}

```

whd

--

William Daffer: 818-354-0161: William.Daffer@jpl.nasa.gov

Subject: Re: indexing over structure tags

Posted by [Bernard Puc](#) on Thu, 19 Apr 2001 17:50:15 GMT

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Randall Skelton wrote:

```

>
> Thanks Tom... I did think of that. However, in this particular case there
> is some merit in having the name of the structure be a useful and human
> readable tag. Nobody would be happy trying to remember yet another
> arbitrary numbering scheme for molecules when they'd rather just type the
> name ;) My suspicion is that there isn't an easy way to do what I want...
>
> Randall
>
> On Thu, 19 Apr 2001, tam wrote:
>
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>>
>>   for i=0,n_tags(data)-1 do begin
>>     data.(i).values = .. some expresion ...
>>   endfor
>>
>> where the (i) indicates use the i'th element of the structure.
>> So you don't need to use the names at all.
>>

```

```
>>    Regards,  
>>    Tom McGlynn  
>>
```

Perhaps you misunderstood...there are two ways of accessing a tag within a structure.

```
data = {lat:fltarr(10), lng:fltarr(10), sig:fltarr(10)}
```

Method 1:

```
data.lat  
data.lng  
data.sig
```

Method 2:

```
data.(0)  
data.(1)  
data.(2)
```

Either method accesses the same variables.

--

|                  |                                   |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bernard Puc      | AETC, INC.                        |
| bpuc@va.aetc.com | 1225 Jefferson Davis Highway #800 |
| (703) 413-0500   | Arlington, VA 22202               |

---

Subject: Re: indexing over structure tags

Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Thu, 19 Apr 2001 18:08:29 GMT

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---

Randall Skelton wrote:

```
>  
> Thanks Tom... I did think of that. However, in this particular case there  
> is some merit in having the name of the structure be a useful and human  
> readable tag. Nobody would be happy trying to remember yet another  
> arbitrary numbering scheme for molecules when they'd rather just type the  
> name ;) My suspicion is that there isn't an easy way to do what I want...
```

Maybe more context is needed to solve your problem .... the user of the code \*shouldn't\* have to remember the (not so) arbitrary numbering scheme - the user would type in a molecule name (or names). How your code deals with searching the human readable tagnames is a different matter, no?

e.g.

```
; define the basic structure for each
```

```

sm_struc = {basic_struct, comment: ' ', values: fltarr(nlev)}

; define the large structure
data = {big_struct, so4: sm_struc, co2: sm_struc, hcl: sm_struc}

; get the names of the tags
names = tag_names(data)

```

so that names = [so4, co2, hcl].

Say the user requests data for 'so4' and 'hcl' so how about

```

user_request = ['so4', 'hcl']
n_requests = N_ELEMENTS( user_request )

FOR i = 0, n_requests - 1 DO BEGIN
  tag_number = (WHERE( user_request[i] EQ names ))[0] ; <-- assume this always succeeds
  data_to_get = data.(tag_number).values
  IF ( i EQ 0 ) THEN $
    data_to_return = data_to_get $
  ELSE $
    data_to_return = [ [ data_to_return ], [ data_to_get ] ]
ENDFOR

RETURN, data_to_return

```

or something like that? As it is above might not work for plucking out structures, but that's a detail. So is the concatenation build of the data\_to\_return. Should be o.k. for small arrays tho'.

paulv

--

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Subject: Re: indexing over structure tags  
 Posted by [tam](#) on Thu, 19 Apr 2001 19:23:50 GMT  
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Hmmm.... Well assuming that you want to iterate (for whatever reason)  
 over a set of names rather than a set of indices how about.

```

names = tagnames(data)
for i=0,n_tags(data)-1 do begin ; Or any other kind of loop
  name = ... entered somehow by the user perhaps ...
  w=where(name eq names[i]);
  if (w(0) ne -1) then begin
    ind = w[0]
    data.(ind).values = ...
  ....

```

It's easy enough to translate from the variable name to the variable index -- and the index may itself be a variable.

Tom

Randall Skelton wrote:

```

>
> Thanks Tom... I did think of that. However, in this particular case there
> is some merit in having the name of the structure be a useful and human
> readable tag. Nobody would be happy trying to remember yet another
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>> where the (i) indicates use the i'th element of the structure.
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>>
>>   Regards,
>>   Tom McGlynn
>>

```

---

Subject: Re: indexing over structure tags  
 Posted by [tam](#) on Thu, 19 Apr 2001 19:25:38 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

tam wrote:  
 >  
 ...  
 > if (w(0) ne -1) then begin

```
> ind = w[0]
> data.(ind).values = ...
> ....
>
```

Mea culpa for the w(0) followed on the next line by w[0]. Just trying to induce maximal confusion.

Tom

---

---

Subject: Re: indexing over structure tags  
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Tue, 24 Apr 2001 07:45:13 GMT  
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---

Randall Skelton wrote:

```
>
> Thanks Tom... I did think of that. However, in this particular case there
> is some merit in having the name of the structure be a useful and human
> readable tag. Nobody would be happy trying to remember yet another
> arbitrary numbering scheme for molecules when they'd rather just type the
> name ;) My suspicion is that there isn't an easy way to do what I want...
>
> Randall
>
```

Dear Randall,

I will show you an easy way, how to access any level of a structure by incrementing of a an array.

may be we have a structure like

```
pi={name:'p.mustermann'}
global={pi:pi}
n2o={param:fltarr(10),short_name:'N2O',long_name:'mixing
ratio',units:'ppb',flag:'NONE'}
time={param:fltarr(10),short_name:'time',long_name:'time
[UT]',units:'seconds since 2000-01-01 00:00:00 UTC', flag:'NONE'}

icgs={!global:global,time:time,n2o:n2o}
```

more attribute of this data structure are explained by my publication.  
<http://www.fz-juelich.de/zb/text/publikation/juel3786.html>

The following routine creates an array of tagnames and an

array of pointers of any submitted structure  
The return value of this function is n\_elements(names)  
and the keywords names and ptr\_values

```
n=struct2names_and_ptrs(icgs,names=names,ptr_values=ptr_values)
PRINT,n
IDL> 11
```

```
IDL> PRINT,names
!GLOBAL.PI.NAME TIME.PARAM TIME.SHORT_NAME TIME.LONG_NAME TIME.UNITS
TIME.FLAG
N2O.PARAM N2O.SHORT_NAME N2O.LONG_NAME N2O.UNITS N2O.FLAG
```

```
IDL> FOR I=0,n-1 do help,*(ptr_values[i])
<PtrHeapVar1>  STRING  = 'p.mustermann'
<PtrHeapVar2>  FLOAT   = Array[10]
<PtrHeapVar3>  STRING  = 'time'
<PtrHeapVar4>  STRING  = 'time [UT]'
<PtrHeapVar5>  STRING  = 'seconds since 2000-01-01 00:00:00 UTC'
<PtrHeapVar6>  STRING  = 'NONE'
<PtrHeapVar7>  FLOAT   = Array[10]
<PtrHeapVar8>  STRING  = 'N2O'
<PtrHeapVar9>  STRING  = 'mixing ratio'
<PtrHeapVar10> STRING  = 'ppb'
<PtrHeapVar11> STRING  = 'NONE'
```

[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_source/idl\\_html/dbase/download/struct2names\\_and\\_ptrs.tar.gz](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/download/struct2names_and_ptrs.tar.gz)

This routine was written to use by add\_tag, delete\_tag, replace\_tagvalue and rename\_tag  
on each level of a structure with the following routine you are able to build any structure defined from names and ptr\_values.

[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_source/idl\\_html/dbase/download/names\\_and\\_ptrs2struct.tar.gz](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/download/names_and_ptrs2struct.tar.gz)

For further routines and licensing please look at  
[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_lib\\_intro.html](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html)

Is this the solution of your problem?

Reimar

--

Reimar Bauer

Institut fuer Stratosphaerische Chemie (ICG-1)

Forschungszentrum Juelich

email: R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de

<http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/>

=====

a IDL library at Forschungszentrum Jülich

[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_lib\\_intro.html](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html)

<http://www.fz-juelich.de/zb/text/publikation/juel3786.html>

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