
Subject: indexing over structure tags

Posted by [Randall Skelton](#) on Thu, 19 Apr 2001 16:28:19 GMT

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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
      ^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^
```

where IDL determines what the appropriate label 'data.name[i].values' is.

Thanks,
Randall
