

---

Subject: Re: using an unknown number of keywords  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 19 Oct 2001 22:46:47 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Sean Raffuse (sean@me.wustl.edu) writes:

> I'm trying to write a more or less universal procedure that takes a data  
> structure and prints the variables out one by one one a line in an ascii  
> file. The problem is that the structure could have any number of variables.  
> I want to do this:  
>  
> printf, lun, structure.var1, structure.var2, structure.var3, . . . ,  
> structure.varN  
>  
> If I know N, is there a way to do this without resorting to N cases?

How about something like this:

```
numTags = N_Tags(structure)
PrintF, lun, structure, Format='(' + StrTrim(numTags,2) + 'F10.2)'
```

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting  
Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: [david@dfanning.com](mailto:david@dfanning.com)  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

---

Subject: Re: using an unknown number of keywords  
Posted by [Sean Raffuse](#) on Mon, 22 Oct 2001 18:20:31 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

David Fanning <[david@dfanning.com](mailto:david@dfanning.com)> wrote in message  
news:MPG.163a5b3f51d8f2ea989719@news.frii.com...

> Sean Raffuse (sean@me.wustl.edu) writes:  
>  
>> I'm trying to write a more or less universal procedure that takes a data  
>> structure and prints the variables out one by one one a line in an ascii  
>> file. The problem is that the structure could have any number of  
variables.  
>> I want to do this:  
>>  
>> printf, lun, structure.var1, structure.var2, structure.var3, . . . ,

```
>> structure.varN
>>
>> If I know N, is there a way to do this without resorting to N cases?
>
> How about something like this:
>
> numTags = N_Tags(structure)
> Printf, lun, structure, Format='(' + StrTrim(numTags,2) + 'F10.2)'
>
This would work fine if I didn't have different data types. Strings (of
various lengths) may be mixed with floats and integers. Any other ideas out
there in IDL expert land??
```

-Sean

---

Subject: Re: using an unknown number of keywords  
Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Mon, 22 Oct 2001 18:47:42 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Sean Raffuse wrote:

```
>
> David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> wrote in message
> news:MPG.163a5b3f51d8f2ea989719@news.frii.com...
>> Sean Raffuse (sean@me.wustl.edu) writes:
>>
>>> I'm trying to write a more or less universal procedure that takes a data
>>> structure and prints the variables out one by one one a line in an ascii
>>> file. The problem is that the structure could have any number of
> variables.
>>> I want to do this:
>>>
>>> printf, lun, structure.var1, structure.var2, structure.var3, . . .,
>>> structure.varN
>>>
>>> If I know N, is there a way to do this without resorting to N cases?
>>
>> How about something like this:
>>
>> numTags = N_Tags(structure)
>> Printf, lun, structure, Format='(' + StrTrim(numTags,2) + 'F10.2)'
>>
> This would work fine if I didn't have different data types. Strings (of
> various lengths) may be mixed with floats and integers. Any other ideas out
> there in IDL expert land??
```

Why not use default formatting? For example:

```
IDL> a = {var1:indgen(30), var2:['a', 'b', 'c'], var3:findgen(9)}
IDL> print, a
{      0      1      2      3      4      5      6      7
      8      9     10     11     12     13     14     15
     16     17     18     19     20     21     22     23
     24     25     26     27     28     29
a b c
  0.00000  1.00000  2.00000  3.00000  4.00000
  5.00000  6.00000  7.00000  8.00000
}
```

Each variable starts on a new line in the printed output.

Cheers,  
Liam.  
Practical IDL Programming  
<http://www.gumley.com/>

Subject: Re: using an unknown number of keywords  
Posted by [Sean Raffuse](#) on Mon, 22 Oct 2001 20:00:51 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Liam E. Gumley <Liam.Gumley@ssec.wisc.edu> wrote in message  
news:3BD469CE.7B6483C6@ssec.wisc.edu...

> Sean Raffuse wrote:

>>

>> David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> wrote in message

>> news:MPG.163a5b3f51d8f2ea989719@news.frii.com...

>>> Sean Raffuse (sean@me.wustl.edu) writes:

>>>>

>>>> I'm trying to write a more or less universal procedure that takes a  
data

>>>> structure and prints the variables out one by one one a line in an  
ascii

>>>> file. The problem is that the structure could have any number of  
>> variables.

>>>> I want to do this:

>>>>

>>>> printf, lun, structure.var1, structure.var2, structure.var3, . . .,  
>>>> structure.varN

>>>>

>>>> If I know N, is there a way to do this without resorting to N cases?

>>>

>>> How about something like this:

>>>

>>> numTags = N\_Tags(structure)

>>> Printf, lun, structure, Format='(' + StrTrim(numTags,2) + 'F10.2)'

```

>>>
>> This would work fine if I didn't have different data types. Strings (of
>> various lengths) may be mixed with floats and integers. Any other ideas
out
>> there in IDL expert land??
>
> Why not use default formatting? For example:
>
> IDL> a = {var1:indgen(30), var2:['a', 'b', 'c'], var3:findgen(9)}
> IDL> print, a
> {   0   1   2   3   4   5   6   7
>    8   9  10  11  12  13  14  15
>   16  17  18  19  20  21  22  23
>   24  25  26  27  28  29
> a b c
>  0.00000  1.00000  2.00000  3.00000  4.00000
>  5.00000  6.00000  7.00000  8.00000
> }
>
> Each variable starts on a new line in the printed output.

```

The problem is that I am trying to format the data into columns:

```

var1  var2  var3  ... varN
var1  var2  var3  ... varN
var1  var2  var3  ... varN
var1  var2  var3  ... varN

```

```

>
> Cheers,
> Liam.
> Practical IDL Programming
> http://www.gumley.com/

```

Subject: Re: using an unknown number of keywords  
 Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Mon, 22 Oct 2001 20:32:14 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Sean Raffuse wrote:

```

>
> Liam E. Gumley <Liam.Gumley@ssec.wisc.edu> wrote in message
> news:3BD469CE.7B6483C6@ssec.wisc.edu...
>> Sean Raffuse wrote:
>>>
>>> David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> wrote in message
>>> news:MPG.163a5b3f51d8f2ea989719@news.frii.com...

```

```

>>>> Sean Raffuse (sean@me.wustl.edu) writes:
>>>>
>>>> > I'm trying to write a more or less universal procedure that takes a
> data
>>>> > structure and prints the variables out one by one one a line in an
> ascii
>>>> > file. The problem is that the structure could have any number of
>>> variables.
>>>> > I want to do this:
>>>> >
>>>> > printf, lun, structure.var1, structure.var2, structure.var3, . . .,
>>>> > structure.varN
>>>> >
>>>> > If I know N, is there a way to do this without resorting to N cases?
>>>>
>>>> How about something like this:
>>>>
>>>> numTags = N_Tags(structure)
>>>> Printf, lun, structure, Format='(' + StrTrim(numTags,2) + 'F10.2)'
>>>>
>>> This would work fine if I didn't have different data types. Strings (of
>>> various lengths) may be mixed with floats and integers. Any other ideas
> out
>>> there in IDL expert land??
>>
>> Why not use default formatting? For example:
>>
>> IDL> a = {var1:indgen(30), var2:['a', 'b', 'c'], var3:findgen(9)}
>> IDL> print, a
>> {   0   1   2   3   4   5   6   7
>>    8   9  10  11  12  13  14  15
>>   16  17  18  19  20  21  22  23
>>   24  25  26  27  28  29
>> a b c
>>  0.00000  1.00000  2.00000  3.00000  4.00000
>>  5.00000  6.00000  7.00000  8.00000
>> }
>>
>> Each variable starts on a new line in the printed output.
>
> The problem is that I am trying to format the data into columns:
>
> var1  var2  var3  ... varN
> var1  var2  var3  ... varN
> var1  var2  var3  ... varN
> var1  var2  var3  ... varN
>

```

Hmm:

```
s=string(FORMAT='(A)',a)
print,s,FORMAT='('+strtrim(n_elements(s),2)+'(A,2X))'
```

but of course you won't be able to recover the existing structure this way. I.e. you won't know "var2" is a three element vector.

JD

---