Subject: How do I use FORMAT as I would SPRINTF?? Please Help!
Posted by Brian Huether on Thu, 19 Sep 2002 10:23:57 GMT
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I am quite perplexed by the IDL FORMAT keyword. I am used to MATLAB where I can quite simply use the sprintf command. For instance, in MATLAB, the command

s = sprintf('IDL has been driving me crazy for the last %d days', 10)

would result in a string that contains

'IDL has been driving me crazy for the last 10 days'

What I really need to do is something like this:

s = sprintf('SIZE(%s, /%s)', arrayname, somekeyword)

So if arrayname is A and somekeyword is TYPE, then the resulting string would be

'SIZE(A, /TYPE)'

It is a meaningless example but hopefully you see what I want to do (i.e. I need to execute IDL commands in a loop, where each time through, the command input parameters are varying and are specified by indexing arrays that contain the parameters)

Subject: Re: How do I use FORMAT as I would SPRINTF?? Please Help!
Posted by James Kuyper on Thu, 19 Sep 2002 15:06:56 GMT
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Brian Huether wrote:
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IDL> arrayname = 'A'
IDL> somekeyword = 'TYPE'
IDL> s = 'SIZE(' + arrayname + ', /' + somekeyword + ')'
IDL> print,s
SIZE(A, /TYPE)

This technique is simple and straightforward, but doesn't work for numbers; you need to convert them to strings. That's what the STRING() function is for, and it takes a FORMAT argument. That format argument uses the same codes as the 'print' command, which include C-like formats such as %f.

s = STRING(arrayname, somekeyword, FORMAT='(%"SIZE(%s, /%s)")')

I strongly recommend reviewing the online help; look in the index for 'printf-style format codes'. The rules aren't quite the same as for C (and presumably for MATLAB), often in vary frustrating ways.

Subject: Re: How do I use FORMAT as I would SPRINTF?? Please Help!
Posted by Brian Huether on Thu, 19 Sep 2002 15:54:12 GMT
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Thanks for all the replies. Looks like I will have some MATLAB licenses available to me next week so I'll be able to go back to my familiar ways! The only thing I was able to do with IDL during my short time with it was write a routine that creates an HDF file based on inputted data and attributes. It is a fairly general routine and seems to work.

-brian

"Brian Huether" <bhuether@earthlink.net> schrieb im Newsbeitrag news:3d89a431$1_8@news.teranews.com...
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