
Subject: Re: strange behaviour of .skip command
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 15 May 2008 03:46:29 GMT
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Manodeep Sinha writes:

- > Is my understanding of .skip incorrect ? Does it skip through more
- > than 1 line even when invoked without an additional parameter ?
- >
- > In any case, it boggles my mind seeing code go through both the "if"
- > and "else" part in one execution !

Here is what the .SKIP documentation says:

```
*****  
;  
Note that .SKIP does not execute or evaluate the code it is skipping.  
Rather, it arbitrarily alters the current program counter to the nth  
physical statement following the current point. This has implications  
that may not be obvious on initial consideration:  
*****  
;
```

I would say what you see is consistent with this statement.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: strange behaviour of .skip command
Posted by [pgrigis](#) on Thu, 15 May 2008 13:21:01 GMT
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Manodeep Sinha wrote:

- > Hello everyone,
- >
- > In the fine tradition of *trying* to get things done quick, I have a
- > code segment that looks like :
- >
- > if {some condition} then begin
- > .
- > .
- > {some random text to make the code break}

>
> endif else begin
> .
> .
> endelse
>
> The code breaks at the random text, I check for the variables and
> conditions that were set in the "if part", and if all is well, I issue
> a .skip and a .continue. Now, it turns out that under such conditions
> (if the random text is located right before the endif statement), the
> code execution actually proceeds through the else-endelse segment as
> well. However, if there is any other statement between the random text
> and the endif statement, then the code execution does not go into the
> else-endelse segment.

Simply put a "stop" instead of your random test, and resume execution
with .continue.

Then there is no need to use .skip.

Cheers,
Paolo

>
> Granted this is quite an unique situation to find oneself in, but
> having spent the better part of a day trying to track this down, I
> thought I would check with the group and see if this was a
> reproducible behaviour.
>
> Is my understanding of .skip incorrect ? Does it skip through more
> than 1 line even when invoked without an additional parameter ?
>
> In any case, it boggles my mind seeing code go through both the "if"
> and "else" part in one execution !
>
> Cheers,
> Manodeep

Subject: Re: strange behaviour of .skip command
Posted by manodeep@gmail.com on Thu, 15 May 2008 18:01:31 GMT
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On May 15, 9:21 am, pgri...@gmail.com wrote:

>
> Simply put a "stop" instead of your random test, and resume execution
> with .continue.
> Then there is no need to use .skip.
>

> Cheers,
> Paolo

In this case, I completely agree but the need to use a .skip does arise if there happens to be one line of offending code. Using .skip in such a case could lead to "for loops" not being completely executed, or execution falling through to the "else" part of an "if-else" condition.

So, my understanding is that you are fine as long as using .skip does not take you to the end of a control flow statement. If using .skip does take you to a endif/endifor statement, then the code will behave somewhat unexpectedly.

As David pointed out, the behaviour of .skip can have implications that are not immediately obvious !

Cheers,
Manodeep

Subject: Re: strange behaviour of .skip command
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 15 May 2008 18:19:22 GMT
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Manodeep Sinha writes:

> So, my understanding is that you are fine as long as using .skip does
> not take you to the end of a control flow statement. If using .skip
> does take you to a endif/endifor statement, then the code will behave
> somewhat unexpectedly.

I think the point is that .SKIP doesn't follow program control flow at all. It just skips the next command in the file, whatever it is.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
