Subject: Procedures with variable/dynamic argument list??
Posted by SonicKenking on Fri, 22 Oct 2010 01:49:18 GMT

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Is it possible in IDL to code a procedure using variable/dynamic
argument list?? i.e. the number of arguments is arbitrary and the
procedure is able to accept them all with some argument array?

Similar to the "va_list" in C or "*args" in Python.

The Print command in IDL is a good example too for accepting arbitrary
number of arguments and print them all. Unfortunately, the Print
command is not written in IDL, hence no sneak peek of the source code
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Subject: Re: Procedures with variable/dynamic argument list??
Posted by pgerakines on Thu, 08 Jan 2015 20:27:15 GMT

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It's not exactly what you're asking for, but recently I've discovered this is possible with the new
LIST variable type.

You can pass a LIST variable to your procedure, where each element is one of the arguments in
the "usual type" of procedure/function call. You can then determine the number of elements in the
LIST that was passed using the list::count function method.

So you can call the procedure with any number of arguments, as long as you package them into a
LIST first.

```
> myprocedure, LIST(x1,x2,x3,x4,x5,x6)
> myprocedure, LIST(x1,x2,x3)
```

where

```
PRO my_procedure, x
n = x.count()
x1 = x[0]
x2 = x[1]
; etc.
END
```