
Subject: procedure in case statement

Posted by [hannah_ue](#) on Mon, 19 Nov 2012 13:36:19 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

hi there,

i'm relatively new to IDL programming. is there any way to run a PROCEDURE in a CASE statement? i want to ask myself via READ which PROCEDURE i want to use.

thanks for your help!

ich

Subject: Re: procedure in case statement

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 19 Nov 2012 13:50:32 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

hannah_ue@web.de writes:

> i'm relatively new to IDL programming. is there any way to run a PROCEDURE in a CASE statement? i want to ask myself via READ which PROCEDURE i want to use.

> thanks for your help!

Use CALL_PROCEDURE.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: procedure in case statement

Posted by [hannah_ue](#) on Mon, 19 Nov 2012 14:06:57 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Am Montag, 19. November 2012 14:36:19 UTC+1 schrieb hann...@web.de:

> hi there,

>

> i'm relatively new to IDL programming. is there any way to run a PROCEDURE in a CASE statement? i want to ask myself via READ which PROCEDURE i want to use.

>

> thanks for your help!

>
> ich

hm... i get the same error. what i have is: 2 procedures i wrote which work. instead of using two different files for each procedure, i want one file where i can choose the one procedure i like. lets call them proc_one,a,b,c and proc_two,d,e,f. i tried it like the following:

```
read,rot,prompt='rot via proc one or two? (proc_one,proc_two)'
case rot of
'proc_one': call_procedure,proc_one,a,b,c
'proc_two': call_procedure,porch_two,d,e,f
endcase
```

maybe this is not very clever but i have no idea how to do it in another way

Subject: Re: procedure in case statement
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 19 Nov 2012 14:33:37 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

hannah_ue@web.de writes:

> hm... i get the same error. what i have is: 2 procedures i wrote which work. instead of using two different files for each procedure, i want one file where i can choose the one procedure i like. lets call them proc_one,a,b,c and proc_two,d,e,f. i tried it like the following:

```
>
> read,rot,prompt='rot via proc one or two? (proc_one,proc_two)'
> case rot of
> 'proc_one': call_procedure,proc_one,a,b,c
> 'proc_two': call_procedure,porch_two,d,e,f
> endcase
```

>
> maybe this is not very clever but i have no idea how to do it in another way

Well, there are a LOT of things wrong with this approach, probably, but I would start by putting your two procedures in two separate files, named correctly:

http://www.idlcoyote.com/code_tips/mostcommon.html

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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

Subject: Re: procedure in case statement
Posted by [hannah_ue](#) on Mon, 19 Nov 2012 15:33:11 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

> Well, there are a LOT of things wrong with this approach,
>
> probably, but I would start by putting your two procedures
>
> in two separate files, named correctly:

sorry for my misspelling!
well, i already did this

Subject: Re: procedure in case statement
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 19 Nov 2012 15:34:50 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

hannah_ue@web.de writes:

> sorry for my misspelling!
> well, i already did this

OK, then you are good to go!

Cheers,

David

--

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

Subject: Re: procedure in case statement
Posted by [hannah_ue](#) on Mon, 19 Nov 2012 15:39:29 GMT

> OK, then you are good to go!

so do you have any idea why i get the "read: input conversion error. unit: 0, file: <stdin>" error?
thanks, hannah

Subject: Re: procedure in case statement
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Mon, 19 Nov 2012 15:42:35 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Here's what I am assuming:

- 1) you have a separate file called "proc_one.pro" (all lower case) that contains the "proc_one" procedure.
- 2) you have a separate file called "proc_two.pro" (all lower case) that contains the "proc_two" procedure.

Based on that, why can't you just do:

```
read,rot,prompt='rot via proc one or two? (1 or 2)'
case rot of
  1: proc_one,a,b,c
  2: proc_two,d,e,f
endcase
```

Note I use an integer selector rather than typing out the actual name of the procedure required (after a couple of tests, all that typing would drive me nuts).

Once you get this working, then you might want to start to get fancier using CALL_PROCEDURE, or EXECUTE, or similar.

cheers,

paulv

On 11/19/12 09:06, hannah_ue@web.de wrote:

```
> Am Montag, 19. November 2012 14:36:19 UTC+1 schrieb hann...@web.de:
>> hi there,
>>
>> i'm relatively new to IDL programming. is there any way to run a
>> PROcedure in a CASE statement? i want to ask myself via READ which
>> PROcedure i want to use.
>>
>> thanks for your help!
```

```
>>
>> ich
>
> hm... i get the same error. what i have is: 2 procedures i wrote
> whichwork. instead of using two different files for each procedure, i want
> one file where i can choose the one procedure i like. lets call them
> proc_one,a,b,c and proc_two,d,e,f. i tried it like the following:
>
> read,rot,prompt='rot via proc one or two? (proc_one,proc_two)'
> case rot of
> 'proc_one': call_procedure,proc_one,a,b,c
> 'proc_two': call_procedure,porch_two,d,e,f
> endcase
>
> maybe this is not very clever but i have no idea how to do it in another way
```

Subject: Re: procedure in case statement

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 19 Nov 2012 15:44:21 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

hannah_ue@web.de writes:

> so do you have any idea why i get the "read: input conversion error. unit: 0, file: <stdin>" error?

I think you will find we will have all kinds of ideas if you share EXACTLY what the problem is (i.e., the error message) and the code that produces it. If we have to keep guessing, most of us will lose interest in the game and go back to work. :-)

I would say that this problem comes about because IDL thinks the thing you are trying to read is a float and you keep typing a string. Something like this might help:

```
ans = ""
read, ans
```

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Subject: Re: procedure in case statement
Posted by [hannah_ue](#) on Mon, 19 Nov 2012 15:46:08 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

thanks for your answer. i do it exactly like you suggested, but always get the error "read: input conversion error. unit: 0, file: <stdin>"
do you have an idea what could be wrong?

thanks, hannah

Subject: Re: procedure in case statement
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Mon, 19 Nov 2012 15:52:25 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hmm. Not really. This is what I get (on the command line):

```
IDL> read,rot,prompt='rot via proc one or two? (1 or 2)'
rot via proc one or two? (1 or 2)3
IDL> help, rot
ROT          FLOAT    =    3.00000
```

So, you can see it assumes "rot" is a float by default.

Now let's try a string:

```
IDL> read,rot,prompt='rot via proc one or two? (1 or 2)'
rot via proc one or two? (1 or 2)proc_one
% READ: Input conversion error. Unit: 0, File: <stdin>
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

Oops. So, DavidF was correct. You have to cast the variable as a string before you use it as such:

```
IDL> rot=""
IDL> read,rot,prompt='rot via proc one or two? (1 or 2)'
rot via proc one or two? (1 or 2)proc_one
IDL> help, rot
ROT          STRING   = 'proc_one'
```

```
IDL> print, !version
{ x86 linux unix linux 8.2 Apr 10 2012    32    64}
```

cheers,

paulv

On 11/19/12 10:46, hannah_ue@web.de wrote:

> thanks for your answer. i do it exactly like you suggested, but always get the error "read: input conversion error. unit: 0, file:<stdin>"

> do you have an idea what could be wrong?

>

> thanks, hannah

Subject: Re: procedure in case statement

Posted by [hannah_ue](#) on Mon, 19 Nov 2012 15:57:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

thanks a lot, paulv and DavidF. now it works.

i'm sorry if my question was formulated kind of inconvenient and ineffectively - it was my first post and i will work on that.

hannah

Subject: Re: procedure in case statement

Posted by [DavidF\[1\]](#) on Mon, 19 Nov 2012 16:22:12 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hi Hannah,

You write:

> i'm sorry if my question was formulated kind of inconvenient and ineffectively - it was my first post and i will work on that.

Well, welcome. I think you will find this newsgroup to be the largest collection of helpful IDL experts in the world. They LOVE to have newbies show up so they can strut their stuff!

Here are some gentle suggestions for how to ask a question on the newsgroup so that it has a good chance of being answered:

<http://www.catb.org/~esr/faqs/smart-questions.html>

We are reasonably forgiving, but all very busy. A good question almost always gets a good answer.

Cheers,

David

Subject: Re: procedure in case statement
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Mon, 19 Nov 2012 19:29:53 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Completely off the original topic, but (regarding the questions URL) I'm still grappling with the "volume is not precision" aspect. Sigh.

On the other hand, the quip:

"All diagnosticians are from Missouri."
made me nose-squirt coffee (it doesn't take much, but I thought that was clever)

cheers,

paulv

On 11/19/12 11:22, Coyote wrote:

> Hi Hannah,
>
> You write:
>
>> i'm sorry if my question was formulated kind of inconvenient and
>> ineffectively - it was my first post and i will work on that.
>
> Well, welcome. I think you will find this newsgroup to be the largest
> collection of helpful IDL experts in the world. They LOVE to have
> newbies show up so they can strut their stuff!
>
> Here are some gentle suggestions for how to ask a question on the
> newsgroup so that it has a good chance of being answered:
>
> <http://www.catb.org/~esr/faqs/smart-questions.html>
>
> We are reasonably forgiving, but all very busy. A good question
> almost always gets a good answer.
>
> Cheers,
>
> David

Subject: Re: procedure in case statement

Posted by [Russell Ryan](#) on Mon, 19 Nov 2012 20:13:04 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Monday, November 19, 2012 10:57:00 AM UTC-5, hann...@web.de wrote:

> thanks a lot, paulv and DavidF. now it works.

>

> i'm sorry if my question was formulated kind of inconvenient and ineffectively - it was my first post and i will work on that.

>

> hannah

Hi Hannah,

Yeah the problem your having is that IDL will default a datatype as a float, and you're trying to assign it a float. So, you need to explicitly set the type to string before hand. When I do this, I usually do:

```
ans='proc1' ; or the default setting
read,'Which procedure do you want to run: ',ans
case ans of
'proc1':
'proc2':
endcase
```

But, this can be very dangerous for a slew of reasons. (1) what if the user misspells the procedure? (2) what if they type something that's disallowed? (which I guess is like (1)), (3) what if they capitalize? Obviously, you can see a host of problems. To guard against these things you should set default settings, have an "else" clause in your case, and check capitalization.

Good luck,
Russell
