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Subject: Re: accessing variables with their string names

Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 19 Dec 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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Natalie Rooney (natalie@arlut.utexas.edu) writes:

> Hello. I'm trying to create a graphical user interface to do analysis  
> and plotting of research data. My widget contains a list widget where I  
> display the names of the data the user has read in.  
>  
> The problem is: I wanted the user to be able to read in a dat file of  
> saved variables. I don't know what the names of the variables will  
> necessarily be. I figured out a way to get the STRING names of the  
> restored variables into an array. But, I still need a way to access the  
> data that the variables contain for plots, etc. Is there any way to  
> access the variables' data if all you have is a string array of the  
> variables' names? I'd appreciate any help.

Uugh. It is \*possible\*, maybe, but you will probably run into limitations. For example, you will have to name all the "variables" something else in your program to use them. Here is a short example of how I might approach the problem using the EXECUTE command. I don't know any other way that this could be accomplished, really.

Pro Example, varNames

Restore, 'example.sav'

```
ok = Execute('Plot, ' + varNames[0])
```

```
ok = Execute('var2 = ' + varNames[1])
```

Help, var2

END

```
a = Findgen(11)
```

```
b = 3.5
```

```
Save, a, b, File='example.sav'
```

```
Example, ['a', 'b']
```

END

How are you getting the "string" names of the restored variables?

Happy Holidays,

David

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