
Subject: Re: Creating Variables in Programs
Posted by [R. Bauer](#) on Tue, 14 Jul 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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Craig Markwardt wrote:

```
> Martin Schultz <mgs@io.harvard.edu> writes:
>>
>> Perry Phillips wrote:
>>>
>>> Does anyone know of a way to create a new array under program control, ie
>>> create a string and use that string to make an array. As far as I can see
>>> this is impossible in IDL?
>>>
>>> --
>>> Perry Phillips          p.phillips@mail.utexas.edu
>>
>>
>> here's a quick example
>>
>>
>> IDL> r=execute('a=fltarr(200)')
>> IDL> help,a
>> A          FLOAT      = Array[200]
>>
>
> There is a "gotcha." in the case of a compiled procedure, the
> variable "a" must have already been defined. The following is usually
> sufficient:
>
> A = 0
> ...
> R = EXECUTE('A=FLTARR(200)')
>
> The IDL internal compiler needs to know that "A" exists before it can
> be assigned to in an EXECUTE statement. The same applies for
> restoring variables: all the variables in the SAVE file must be
> predefined in the procedure. Assigning zero to them is fine.
>
>
```

I am not sure if this has changed with idl 5.1. An other way to get an undefined variable is `b=n_elements(a)`
Yes `b` is well defined by 0 but `a` is defined as undefined.

```
help
% At $MAIN$
B          LONG      =          0
```

A UNDEFINED = <Undefined>

Reimar

--

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