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Subject: Re: PvWave Startup

Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 08 Feb 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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Bertrand Revenaz (breven@po-box.mcgill.ca) writes:

```
> I'm a new PVWAVE user and I am trying to get pvwave to run some .pro
> files at startup. How would I go about getting it to do that
> automatically when PVWAVE startup.
> Also one of the .pro files calls to other file with the sybtax
>
> .RNEW $HOME/plot/macros.pro
> .RNEW $HOME/plot/tex2wave.pro
>
> I get errors when I try to compile the pro files that has these two
> lines in it.
```

You are doing a couple of things wrong. First of all, I would use the executive command `.RUN` rather than `.RNEW` as you are doing above. `.RNEW` has the unfortunate (or fortunate, as your experience grows) side effect of deleting all your main-level variables. In the code above these would be the variables you probably just created in the `macros.pro` program. Not what you had in mind, I'm guessing. :-)

Then I would put these two commands into a file by themselves. You *don't* want to compile this file. Instead, you want to execute the commands as if you were typing them at the command line. (This file is sometimes called a "batch file" because you execute a sequence of commands one after the other.) You can do this when you start up PV-Wave by making this file the startup file. You do this (probably) by declaring an environment variable that is named something like `WAVE_STARTUP` (I haven't used PV-Wave in quite a while, I'm not sure exactly how this goes now.) Or, suppose you put the commands into a file named `doit.pro`, then you could execute the batch file with the ampersand character inside of PV-Wave like this:

```
WAVE> @doit
```

In any case, you can only use executive commands like `.RNEW` and `.RUN` from the IDL command line. You can't use them inside of programs.

Cheers,

David

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[Note: This follow-up was e-mailed to the cited author.]

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