
Subject: Re: Including files

Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Tue, 25 May 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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J.D. Smith wrote:

>

> [...]

> That is, you must use:

>

> common cblock, var1, var2, var3, var4, ...

>

> everywhere instead of:

>

> common cblock

>

> Normally this is a real pain, since changing the common block requires

> changing all of its definition statements. However, if you put the

> definition in one file and simply do a:

>

> @cblock

>

> at the beginning of all relevant procedures, you can change your common

> block in one place and still not require an initializer.

This is not quite right. You will have to make sure that your common block gets initialized correctly! For IDL, a common block at the beginning is nothing else than a list of variable names. The first procedure that uses these variables determines their type and dimensions. Once these are set, you have to exit your IDL session and restart if you want to make any changes. Unless you are certain that it is always the same procedure that makes first use of the common block variables, you are in great danger of trapping into conflicting variable declarations (implicit definitions that is).

Of course ;-) I can also offer you a solution which is to include a default definition in your include file as well, such as:

```
-----  
; myinclude.pro === note, this is not a procedure  
common bla,var1,var2,svar
```

```
if (n_elements(var1) eq 0) then begin  
  var1 = fltarr(100)  
  var2 = 100L  
  svar = "  
endif  
-----
```

Then, regardless which procedure uses your include (myinclude that is ;-), you will always have the same type and dimension for each variable.

- > Of course,
- > eliminating the common block is another good solution, a much better one, I should say!

- > but sometimes
- > this can't be done.

also true. ;-)

- >
- > This technique can be extended to other areas also, such as common error
- > checking code, etc.

> Good Luck,

\geq JD

 $\geq -$

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I really like participating in this newsgroup to get me started in the morning!

Regards,

Martin.

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