
Subject: Re: Accessing "main" level variables
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Wed, 19 Jan 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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Martin Schultz <martin.schultz@REMOVE.dkrz.de> writes:

> Craig Markwardt wrote:
>>
>> [...]
>>
>> I like your questino. I know I will get flamed for saying it, but I
>> think there are some times when it is desireable for a program to
>> deposit its results into the main level. For example, a fully canned
>> curve fitting program may want to return the fitting results. This
>> should of course be done with full control and permission of the user.
>> ... portion deleted ...
>
> No! No flaming. But as you describe it, the solution to your problem
> would
> sound like almost the typical object oriented approach. Simple enough,
> too,
> once the user understands he/she has to write
> obj_fit->get_parameter,a0=a0,m=m
> (or something similar)
> ... portion deleted ...

I agree with you from a *programmer's* point of view. A programmer wants a clean programming interface with predictable behavior. Clearly a procedure that modifies external variables goes against this ideal.

HOWEVER, from a lowly *user's* perspective, I assert that sometimes it would be nice for a program to manipulate some main level variables for me. I know, because I'm both a programmer and a user. Querying objects as you suggest, while linguistically pure, will get stale pretty quickly while I am working interactively at the command line.

In the back of my mind I would like to write a nice graphical curve fitting application using MPFIT, and I want it to be simple simple simple. The question is, how do I get the results out once the fit is finished?

Craig

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