Subject: Re: get variables name Posted by John-David T. Smith on Wed, 05 Apr 2000 07:00:00 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

```
David Fanning wrote:
> R.Bauer (R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de) writes:
>> I like to know the name of a variable which is submitted as input to a
>> procedure
>>
>> e.g
>>
>> pro test,var
>> help,var
>> end
>>
>> a=1
>> test.a
>>
>> Is it possible to get inside test the information that test was called
>> with a.
> My life is totally out of control at the moment, so I haven't
> had the opportunity to write this up for my web page, but
> here is part of a correspondence I recently received from
> Paul Woodford, an IDL user, concerning the undocumented
> ROUTINE NAMES function:
>
    routine_names(variables=0) - variable names at current level
>
    routine names(variables=1) - variable names at main level
    routine names(variables=2) - variable names at one level down from main
>
    routine_names(variables=-1) - variable names at one level up from current
>
    routine_names(variables=-2) - variable names at two levels up from current
>
    But wait, that's not all... Take a look at how routine names is used in
>
    gethelp - you can use routine_names to actually fetch a variable from a
>
    different level. For instance, if you have a variable named 'blah' one
>
    level up from your current level, you can get it using
>
>
    blah here = routine names('blah', fetch=-1)
>
< wise cautionary matter clipped>
But wait... that'still not all!
```

By poking around in the library, I found:

```
pro foo,a
 print,routine_names(a,/ARG_NAME)
end
IDL> foo,x
Χ
pretty cool. And this is the coolest... I've been asking for this for years...
easy to abuse, but oh so useful for sending variables to the command-line and
widget program...
Try this:
pro foo,a
 g=12
 print,routine_names("gvar",g,STORE=1)
end
IDL> foo
    1
IDL> help
% At $MAIN$
G۷
           INT
                         12
Cool! This is the symmetric form of fetch, and I guess just returns 1 on
success. Finally I can create variables for later storage on the command line
within widget apps! Or what I mean to say... hmmph... I mean... don't play with
matches... bad dog...
JD
J.D. Smith
                            |*|
                                  WORK: (607) 255-5842
Cornell University Dept. of Astronomy |*|
                                                (607) 255-6263
304 Space Sciences Bldg.
                                          FAX: (607) 255-5875
                                   |*|
Ithaca, NY 14853
                                |*|
```