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Subject: Re: get variables name  
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Sun, 09 Apr 2000 07:00:00 GMT  
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"J.D. Smith" wrote:

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>
> 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's still not all!
>
```

```
> By poking around in the library, I found:  
>  
> pro foo,a  
>   print,routine_names(a,/ARG_NAME)  
> end  
>
```

That's what I need.

I am using it now in this way.

```
clevel = ROUTINE_NAMES(/LEVEL)  
in_name=routine_names(data,ARG_NAME=clevel-1)
```

R.Bauer

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