
Subject: Re: include file?

Posted by [Robert Weiss](#) on Thu, 29 Jun 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Hello,

what you are looking for are common blocks. Start the online documentation and look up 'common blocks' in the index. If you're familiar with FORTRAN: the concept is quite the same.

Another possibility (one that I prefer because I'm always suspicious of global variables) is to use a structure of constants (with pointers if the constants are large arrays) and explicitly include the structure in the call to your functions and procedures.

Hope that helps,

Robert.

P.S.: If it's physical constants you're using it's most convenient to define them in the `idl_startup.pro` file, since you can then always refer to them without problems (on a UNIX system it is necessary to set the environment variable `IDL_STARTUP` to this file, for Windows and MAC I dunno...).

Stu wrote:

> Hi,
> I have several different routines that all set up the same or slightly
> different constants etc at the beginning,
> is it possible to have all the constants in one file, and have all my
> functions/procedures reference this file
> when they start? It would make for easier maintenance this way. How
> would it be done? I can't see a
> normal function or procedure doing the job as you would have to ask for
> each constant explicitly, which is a
> bit of a pain.
>
> cheers,
> Stu
