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 onlice 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 the constants are larege 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 your using it's most convenient to define them in the idl\_startup.pro file, sice you can then always refer to them without problems (on a UNIX system it is the necessary to set the environment variable IDL\_STARTUP to this file, for WinDO\$ 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 maintainence 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