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Subject: Re: Strings as variables?

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Fri, 09 Mar 2001 23:10:02 GMT

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brbojkov@netscape.net (B. R. Bojkov) writes:

> Hello All,  
>  
> I am writing a "general" HDF extraction subroutine using IDL 5.4 and I  
> am stuck...  
>  
> Let me explain:  
>  
> 1. I read from an HDF file the names (strings) representing the  
> different data arrays found in the given file (this can change from  
> file to file).  
>  
> 2. I successfully extract the different data arrays found in the file  
> and assign them to their matching dataset names using the EXECUTE  
> command.  
>  
> 3. What I want to do next is pass the actual data variables (with  
> their appropriate name from point 2.) to another subroutine (I want  
> to pass the actual variables, not the string containing their names).  
>  
> Am I missing something big? Any suggestions?

You probably aren't missing something big. The answer is to also call the subroutines mentioned in number 3 by using the EXECUTE statement as well. This sounds kind of kludgy, but that's probably because steps 1 and 2 are a bit kludgy as well. I'm wondering, why does the name of the variable make a difference? Couldn't you just call it DATA in your procedure?

If the number of variables is itself variable, then this is a time to use pointers, or more specifically arrays of pointers.

Craig

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Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D.      EMAIL: [craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu](mailto:craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu)  
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