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Subject: Re: Changing common variable definition  
Posted by [larkum](#) on Tue, 26 Jul 1994 13:17:58 GMT  
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In article [fnd@reznor.larc.nasa.gov](mailto:fnd@reznor.larc.nasa.gov), [tai@rockola.larc.nasa.gov](mailto:tai@rockola.larc.nasa.gov) (Alan Tai) writes:

> Matthew Larkum ([larkum@optolab.unibe.ch](mailto:larkum@optolab.unibe.ch)) wrote:  
> : common my\_vars, x, y  
> : and then add a variable:  
> : common my\_vars, x, y, z  
> : and recompile, I get an error:  
> : % Attempt to extend previously defined common: MY\_VARS  
> : Is there any way to redefine a common variable?  
>  
> No, your common block definitions must all be the same (ala Fortran).  
> If you're using IDL version 3.6, you can just do the following:  
>  
>   common my\_vars, x, y  
>   ...  
>   common my\_vars  
>  
> If you're using an earlier version, my suggestion is to go with an  
> @include\_file.  
>  
> main program:  
>   @globals.pro  
>   ...  
>   @globals.pro  
>  
> globals.pro:  
>   common my\_vars, x, y  
>  
> Hope this helps.

No, this isn't quite what I was getting at. I don't want to have different common variable definitions in different modules, I simply want to be able to add a variable to all modules, recompile and proceed. Taking your example I tried:

```
pro subroutine
@globals.pro

print, 'This is the subroutine'
end

pro test
@globals.pro

print, 'This is the main routine'
```

end

The globals.pro file was initially:  
common my\_vars, x, y

Works fine. Then I say, "Wait a minute. I forgot. I also need a variable 'z'. Fine, make the globals.pro file:  
common my\_vars, x, y, z

run test  
% Attempt to extend previously defined common: MY\_VARS  
At: /\$DIRECTORY/globals

The only way I know to continue at the moment is to exit and restart. This happens running IDL for windows and PV-Wave 4.01 on a Sun workstation.

I'm sure there's something I don't understand, but I can't find anything about it in the manual or the FAQ.

Thanks again,

Matthew  
larkum@optolab.unibe.ch

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