
Subject: Re: convert string into the name of a variable
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2001 14:05:54 GMT
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Frederic Raison wrote:

>
> Hi!
>
> Is there anybody who could tell me if there is an IDL instruction, like
> in Matlab, able to convert a string into the name of a variable and
> vice-versa? I mean if I have defined :
>
> a=1
> b=2
> list=['a','b']
>
> I would like to write:
>
> print,somme_instruction(list[0])
>
> and to get:
>
> 1
>
> Thank you
>
> Frederic

Dear Frederic,

as the two others wrote this could be done by execute.
But I like more to learn what's the idea to do this.
For what did you need this?

Another useful routine may be this one:

http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/download/get_main_vars.tar.gz

or if you have a look in import_ascii you can see how it is done without an execute

At the idl prompt type (This also will work in routines. But then you have to use the level keyword)

```
a=1  
b=2
```

```
list=['a','b']
```

```
result=get_main_vars()  
tn=strlowcase(tag_names(result))
```

```
;e.g.  
ix=(where(tn eq list[0]))[0]
```

```
void = ROUTINE_NAMES(tn[ix], STORE=ROUTINE_NAMES(/LEVEL)-1, result.(ix))
```

I believe this would work in runtime but I am not sure.
The function execute will never work in runtime.

regards
Reimar

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Reimar Bauer

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a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich
http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html

<http://www.fz-juelich.de/zb/text/publikation/juel3786.html>
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read something about linux / windows
<http://www.suse.de/de/news/hotnews/MS.html>
