Subject: Examine "Saved" IDL procedures now too!
Posted by Craig Markwardt on Fri, 22 Mar 2002 16:27:20 GMT
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Greetings! As a few people have been posting about, I have a library that allows you to manipulate IDL SAVE files. Up until now, this capacity has been limited to reading and writing IDL *variables* (data only).

Allow me to announce the first major upgrade to my library, which allows you to read and translate saved IDL *procedures*.

As of 2002 Mar 22, four new routines are included which can translate compiled procedures from SAVE files, back into human readable form. Now if you have lost the source code to a compiled save file, or if you just want to see how things work, you can translate the save file back to a format familiar to you!

The main routine of interest is the simple driver routine called PROTRANS, which will translate compiled code from IDL SAVE files into and IDL-like format. As usual all files contain full documentation in their program headers. I have anticipated a few frequently asked questions too, so go ahead and read those. :-)

As far as I am aware, PROTRANS (and underlying library routines PRODIS and PROREND) is capable of translating *any* saved procedure or function created by IDL 4, and IDL 5.0 through IDL 5.5, *except* that it does not handle compressed files. [Although this is easily remedied by restoring and resaving in non-compressed form.]

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In a separate development, I have also posted extensive documentation of the format of IDL save files (variables only). While I anticipate that the interest in this document will be essentially zero, I felt it was important to document the knowledge. This may especially help users from other languages to read and write IDL save files.

Enjoy!

Craig

http://cow.physics.wisc.edu/~craigm/idl/idl.html (under Save Files)

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Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu