Subject: Re: saving variables between calls to a procedure?
Posted by Paul Van Delst[1] on Wed, 31 Jul 2002 21:43:36 GMT
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Reimar Bauer wrote:
>
> Shawn wrote:
>
>> Hello,
>>     I am just curious if there is a better way to save variables
>> between a call to a procedure than to define them in a common block
>> which is shared between procedures, or passing them back and forth.
>> One person suggested to me saving them to a file and re-reading a
>> file.  But I am hoping for some simple way to declare a particular
>> variable as a "saved" variable, which IDL will remember the next time
>> the procedure is called.  It actually just occured to me that I might
>> declare a common block which is actually not shared with any other
>> procedure, then I would be able to avoid mistakenly using the variable
>> in that procedure in a way that I did not intend to use it.  Is it
>> possible to do this, declare a common block, but not use it in any
>> other procedure, and will IDL remember the variables if the common
>> block is not used in any other procedure?  Of course it is simple for
>> me to test this on my own, so I guess I am really still asking if
>> there is a better way.
>> Thank you,
>> Shawn Young
>
> Dear Shawn,
>
> I don't like common blocks too. Most times I am using parameters
> as variable or structure or pointer.
> It depends on what's the routine should do.
>
> For example you can define a pointer as heap var or with a value
> outside in your main routine.
> If you know the reference ptr then you can access from
> all routines you want the data behind this pointer.
>
> pro define,ptr
>  *ptr=[*ptr,10]
> end

Hmm. That seems like an extremely dangerous thing to do - couldn't you clobber something
by concatenating like that? If IDL is smart enough to recognise that the next bit of
memory may be used by something else it then seems that you would end up with a
non-contiguous data structure (in the figurative).

paulv

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