Subject: Re: best way to find the variable name of a structure from RESTORE-ing a sav file

Posted by David Fanning on Fri, 20 Sep 2002 16:14:18 GMT

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Robert Stockwell (rgs1967@hotmail.com) writes:

```
> anyone have good ideas on how to programatically find
> the name of a variable in memory, that happens to be
> a structure. The reason I don't know the name is that I
> am restoring a structure from an IDL sav file. The structure
> is the only thing in the sav file.
>
> For instance, I am writing a function like:
> function readsavdata, filename
>
  restore,filename=filename
  ; here I have a structure in memory, with a variable name I do not know.
>
> help
> ; next line is the result of the help command
> ; IDL> NWS_MMT_FCAST_TEMPERATURE_ARRAY
                                                               STRUCT = -> < Anonymous>
Array[950040]
>
> return, ?????? ; i need the name of this structure
> end; end of function
>
 How do I get this variable name "NWS MMT FCAST TEMPERATURE ARRAY" so I can
> put in a line like
>
 return, NWS_MMT_FCAST_TEMPERATURE_ARRAY
> at the end of the function.
Try this:
 Function ReadSavData, filename
  Restore, Filename=filename
  varname = Routine_Names(Variables=0)
  variable = Routine_Names(varname[0], Fetch=0)
  RETURN, variable
 END
```

This is not exactly documented anywhere, so your mileage may vary. It works here in IDL 5.5. :-)

Cheers,

David

David W. Fanning, Ph.D. Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: david@dfanning.com

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