
Subject: programme driven variable names

Posted by [Ingo von Borstel](#) on Thu, 22 Feb 2007 14:19:21 GMT

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Hi there,

I have a set of routines that act on similar sets of data. In order to have these pre-processed data easily available for further analysis I save the appropriate data structures in an IDL sav file for later retrieval via the restore command.

Unfortunately, the variables saved will always bear the same name. This is inconvenient, if I like to compare data from several of these data sets, restored from several *.sav files.

Is there a way to rename variables during run-time without user interaction?

I have something along these lines in my mind:

```
PRO pre_process_data, datasetname
... ; do the pre-processing
; and save the pre-processed data
SAVE, filename=datasetname, datasetname_variable1,
datasetname_variable2, datasetname_variable3
END
```

And the following usage of restore on an IDL prompt:

```
IDL> pre_process_data, 'set1'
IDL> pre_process_data, 'set2'
...
IDL> reset
...
IDL> restore, 'set1.sav'
IDL> showvars
set1_var1
set1_var2
set1_var3
IDL> restore, 'set2.sav'
IDL> showvars
set1_var1
set1_var2
set1_var3
set2_var1
set2_var2
set2_var3
```

Best regards,

Ingo

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If you need an urgent reply, replace newsgroups by vgap.
