
Subject: Re: variables in common blocks

Posted by [Christopher Thom](#) on Fri, 04 May 2007 16:40:45 GMT

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Quoth Lasse Clausen:

- > Ok. I'll describe what I am using common blocks for: Whatever day
- > during the week, I am doing one of the following:
- > 1) read data
- > 2) process data
- > 3) plot data
- > Since there are many different ways to process or plot data, it is
- > nice to read the data into common blocks, so that when I decide to
- > process or plot the data differently, I do not have to read it in
- > again.
- >
- > If you have an easy solution on how to avoid common blocks, shoot. And
- > why are common blocks bad? Is it the same reason "goto" statements are
- > bad?

Well...I tend to store all my reduced data in IDL .sav files, then read them whenever I want to run a routine. So which is more evil...sav files or common blocks? *ducks* :-)

On the GOTO side of things, I often use them as a get-out-of-jail-free statement inside several layers of nesting, when I take user input. I put in a "quit now and I really mean it" option for myself, then jump to a cleanup section at the end, so I don't leave a mangled plotting window and file handles lying around.

cheers
chris
