
Subject: Re: Renaming a variable in IDL?

Posted by [Maarten\[1\]](#) on Fri, 24 Aug 2007 08:36:56 GMT

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On Aug 24, 7:28 am, peterber...@gmail.com wrote:

> Hi,
> I am writing a procedure for automatically saving some variables from
> more advanced programs for easy access later on. Something along the
> lines of:
>
> PRO, SAVPRO, XVAR, Fname
> save, XVAR, filename=Fname
> end
>
> So if I want to save the file 'YVAR' to filename 'YVAR.sav' I would
> call:
> SAVPRO, YVAR, 'YVAR.sav'
> The problem is that in the save file the variable would be called XVAR
> instead of YVAR, which is a problem for me.
> I realized that I can retrieve the original variable name as a string
> and include it to the SAVPRO call. But then I got lost on how to
> rename a variable to a string name. I was thinking there might be
> something along the lines of using echo in unix (echo
> \$STRYVAR'=XVAR'), but I have found no such function.
>
> My question is: Is it possible to rename a variable in IDL
> automatically? Or is there a better way to do all this?

; restore into XVAR, varname is the string that contains the name to
be used

```
dum = EXECUTE(varname + " = XVAR")
```

```
undefine, XVAR
```

But there probably is a much better way (probably by not using save
files at all).

Maarten
