
Subject: Re: turn a string value into variable name

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 23 Oct 2008 22:56:27 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Nick writes:

- > I am restoring over 100 .sav files and creating structures for
- > analysis. Each .sav represents a different scenario and ideally I
- > would like to name the created structure in sequential format (case1,
- > case2...casen).
- >
- > To pull the data in I am using a for loop (all .sav have identical
- > array names) and I'd like to use the counter to name the variable. Is
- > it possible to turn a string into a variable name?

The EXECUTE command can do this:

```
FOR j=0,n DO BEGIN
  IF Execute('case' + String(j, Format='(I3.3)') + $
    '= mysavedStruct') EQ 0 THEN $
    Print, 'We have a failure to execute!'
ENDFOR
```

At one time there was a limit on the number of new variables that could be created this way inside an IDL program. I believe that limit has been removed.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
