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Subject: Re: SAVE again

Posted by [Carsten Lechte](#) on Wed, 26 May 2010 08:45:02 GMT

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pp wrote:

> Why don't you put all that stuff into a single array?

The original poster did not give any specifics, but the usual way a beginning IDL programmer end up with lots of variables is when when he has arrays of differents data types and/or different sizes. One way of imposing some kind of structure on them is to put the variables into a structure. This is a good way to group together a set of variables that each describe a different aspect of some object (like name, position, color...) Then you have the dilemma of using an array of structs or a struct of arrays.

The other way is using an array of pointers to the various arrays, like `alldata = PTRARR( numarr)`, then `alldata[0] = PTR_NEW( v1)` etc. I use this a lot when I have a list of data files to read, and the data arrays in the files do not all have the same dimensions.

chl

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