
Subject: Re: Strings as variables?

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Fri, 09 Mar 2001 23:10:02 GMT

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brbojkov@netscape.net (B. R. Bojkov) writes:

> Hello All,
>
> I am writing a "general" HDF extraction subroutine using IDL 5.4 and I
> am stuck...
>
> Let me explain:
>
> 1. I read from an HDF file the names (strings) representing the
> different data arrays found in the given file (this can change from
> file to file).
>
> 2. I successfully extract the different data arrays found in the file
> and assign them to their matching dataset names using the EXECUTE
> command.
>
> 3. What I want to do next is pass the actual data variables (with
> their appropriate name from point 2.) to another subroutine (I want
> to pass the actual variables, not the string containing their names).
>
> Am I missing something big? Any suggestions?

You probably aren't missing something big. The answer is to also call the subroutines mentioned in number 3 by using the EXECUTE statement as well. This sounds kind of kludgy, but that's probably because steps 1 and 2 are a bit kludgy as well. I'm wondering, why does the name of the variable make a difference? Couldn't you just call it DATA in your procedure?

If the number of variables is itself variable, then this is a time to use pointers, or more specifically arrays of pointers.

Craig

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Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response

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> Thanks in advance,
>
> Bojan

Hi,

you should use structures.

because then you do not need EXECUTE. `x=CREATE_STRUCT(name,data)`

If you are using EXECUTE you will never be able to use your routines in RUNTIME.

I have already a tool to read in the total datasets into a structure. (ICG-DATA-STRUCTURE). If you are interested please give me a note.

This data structure is explained in my publication:
<http://www.fz-juelich.de/zb/text/publikation/juel3786.html>

regards

Reimar

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<http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/>

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a IDL library at Forschungszentrum Juelich

http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html

<http://www.fz-juelich.de/zb/text/publikation/juel3786.html>
