
Subject: Re: IDL Save file query routine

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Thu, 26 Apr 2001 17:44:27 GMT

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Jonathan Joseph <jj21@cornell.edu> writes:

> IDL (I'm still using 5.3) has nice query routines to let you know if the
> image read operation you are about to perform is likely to work.

>

> Is there any way to query an IDL save file?

> I want to idiot-proof a program which will restore

> a save file that a user selects, but if the program tries

> to restore file which is not an IDL save file, it will halt.

>

> Is there a way to test?

I don't think there is a standard way to do what you want. There are a couple of other possibilities.

One is to use a CATCH handler to catch any errors that occur upon restoring. For example:

```
catch, catcherr
if catcherr EQ 0 then begin
  restore, 'filename.sav'
endif else begin
  catch, /cancel
  message, 'This is not a SAVE file'
endif
catch, /cancel
...
```

You can and should do a lot of additional checking to be sure the right variables were restored.

A second option is to use my CMSV SAVE library, which is designed for exactly this purpose. You can use CMSAVEDIR to query not only for a valid SAVE file, but also to inquire about the names of variables. When it's time to actually restore the variables there are a lot of useful programming options as well, using CMRESTORE.

<http://cow.physics.wisc.edu/~craigm/idl/idl.html> (under SAVE files)

Craig

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