
Subject: journal file contents

Posted by [Med Bennett](#) on Thu, 04 Apr 2002 19:04:28 GMT

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I am perusing a journal file and have a question about what's included.
If I issue a 'print' command, the results are saved in the file, but if
I use a help command, as in

```
help, where(ots eq 'o' and nnp ge 0 and agp lt 10.)
```

the answer is not saved in the file. This is somewhat of an
inconvenience, as it's the answer to the help command that is the value
that's needed for a particular calculation, and that I would like to be
able to refer to later on. I don't really want to do a print,where...
because I don't really care which elements meet the criteria, just how
many there are. Why is this?

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Subject: Re: journal file contents

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 04 Apr 2002 21:20:26 GMT

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Med Bennett (mwbenett@windra.com) writes:

```
> well, thanks David . . . I guess I should have said that I knew that there  
> were ways in this case to get around the problem - but what if there was  
> information that only the help command could give you that you wanted to show  
> up in the journal file?
```

Well, then I think you would have to do this:

```
IDL> Help, myvar, /Structure, Output=text  
IDL> FOR j=0,N_Elements(text)-1 DO Print, text[j]
```

Of course, you would probably want to wrap those
two commands up into a procedure called J_Help
(or something) so you could just do this while
you were journaling:

```
IDL> J_Help, myvar, /Structure
```

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: david@dfanning.com

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: journal file contents

Posted by [Med Bennett](#) on Thu, 04 Apr 2002 22:36:48 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> Med Bennett (mwbenett@windra.com) writes:

>

>> well, thanks David . . . I guess I should have said that I knew that there
>> were ways in this case to get around the problem - but what if there was
>> information that only the help command could give you that you wanted to show
>> up in the journal file?

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> Well, then I think you would have to do this:

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> IDL> Help, myvar, /Structure, Output=text

> IDL> FOR j=0,N_Elements(text)-1 DO Print, text[j]

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> Of course, you would probably want to wrap those
> two commands up into a procedure called J_Help
> (or something) so you could just do this while
> you were journaling:

>

> IDL> J_Help, myvar, /Structure

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

> --

> David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

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brilliant as usual, David! Thanks again-

--

Remove all w's from my email address to reply!

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Subject: Re: journal file contents
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Fri, 05 Apr 2002 02:29:00 GMT
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Med Bennett <mwbenett@windra.com> writes:

>
> well, thanks David . . . I guess I should have said that I knew that there
> were ways in this case to get around the problem - but what if there was
> information that only the help command could give you that you wanted to show
> up in the journal file?

Or, how about HELPFORM? This will render any IDL variable as a
string, expressed in the way that HELP would have rendered it.
Hopefully *that* output format is not proprietary. :-)

Good luck,
Craig

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

--

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