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Subject: exposing variables to higher program levels  
Posted by [Christopher Thom](#) on Thu, 17 May 2007 01:12:54 GMT  
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Hi all,

I've been thinking for a while that I really need to kick my addition to the IDL 'save' command...which, while very convenient, has the nasty habit of not being as portable as I'd like. I recently got bitten by this (again!).

So this afternoon I started tooling around with two routines that would dump all the variables I want into an anonymous structure, and save them to a binary fits table. This works quite nicely, and I can then restore the structure from the fits file, and extract the variables from the structure.

The one catch, though, is that I would like to wrap this up in two routines, to do the bundling and unbundling from the needed structure...but this seems to require the ability to export variables to a higher program level. I don't think it's simply as easy as returning them as parameters, since there are an arbitrary number of variables one might restore from a given fits "save" file.

Any ideas on how to do this (or code already written) would be greatly appreciated.

cheers  
chris

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