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Subject: Re: elementary SAVE and COMMON BLOCKS  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 31 Oct 2007 03:21:21 GMT  
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Libertan writes:

```
> I have a very basic problem. I can't seem to save common blocks.  
> Having read the documentation and tried SAVE with all its options (and  
> permutations of them) I have still had no luck. I am, to be honest,  
> completely stymied.  
>  
> Take for example,  
>  
> PRO main  
> common DATA, a  
> a=9  
> save, /ALL, filename='junk.sav'  
> END  
>  
> As I understand it, this should save the DATA common block which  
> contains the variable A.
```

I think you misunderstand the documentation. All \*main level\* common blocks are saved. Nothing whatsoever is said about common blocks inside procedures and functions, and I presume they are NOT saved. You might try something like this:

```
PRO main  
common DATA, a  
a = 9  
END
```

```
common DATA, a  
Print, a  
Save, /ALL, filename='junk.sav'  
END
```

That seems to work.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: elementary SAVE and COMMON BLOCKS

Posted by [Libertan](#) on Wed, 31 Oct 2007 18:20:47 GMT

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Thankyou very much David Fanning. Yes, I misunderstood; I thought MAIN LEVEL referred to the level at which the common block was defined. Unbounded idiocy. I need to change my block saving program from a procedure to a batch file. I'll assume there's a good reason for not being able to save a common block within a procedure.

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Subject: Re: elementary SAVE and COMMON BLOCKS

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 31 Oct 2007 19:15:29 GMT

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Libertan writes:

- > I'll assume there's a good reason
- > for not being able to save a common block within a procedure.

I'm certain there is. I just don't have the foggiest idea what it might be. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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