
Subject: Two new tools

Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Fri, 27 Mar 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Howdy,

today I finally got around improving my concept of displaying help information on self-written (and library!) routines. Please find attached

function routine_name.pro - which returns the name of the caller routine
and

procedure usage.pro - which displays the "user-relevant" portion of the IDL program header (with minor modifications).

The idea of these routines is to prevent wrist injury from too much double typing in constructs like:

```
if (keyword_set(help)) then begin
    print ; all the stuff that's in the header anyway
endif
```

Now, what you can do is:

```
if (keyword_set(help)) then usage,routine_name()
and you will get a significant portion from the program header
[at least if your routine is stored in a file with the same name].
You can also use usage to get help from the command line:
usage,'my_routine_with_too_many_parameters'
```

Hope you'll find this useful,
Martin.

--

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;-----
;+
; NAME:
; ROUTINE_NAME (function)

```

;
; PURPOSE:
;   return the name of the routine which calls this function.
;
; CATEGORY
;   Tools
;
; CALLING SEQUENCE:
;   rname = ROUTINE_NAME()
;
; INPUTS:
;   none
;
; KEYWORD PARAMETERS:
;   none
;
; OUTPUTS:
;   The name of the caller routine is returned in lowercase
;   characters (can be used to construct a filename by adding
;   ".pro")
;
; SUBROUTINES:
;
; REQUIREMENTS:
;
; NOTES:
;
; EXAMPLE:
;   From the command line:
;     print,routine_name()
;   results in $main$
;
;   Very useful in conjunction with USAGE.PRO:
;     usage,routine_name()
;   displays help information on the current routine.
;
; MODIFICATION HISTORY:
;   mgs, 27 Mar 1998: VERSION 1.00
;
;-
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```

```
; with subject "IDL routine routine_name"
```

```
;----- --
```

```
function routine_name
```

```
; extract the name of the current routine from the caller stack
```

```
; the first element will always be ROUTINE_NAME ;-)
```

```
help,call=c
```

```
thisroutine = str_sep(c(1)," ")
```

```
return,strlowercase(thisroutine(0))
```

```
end
```

```
;----- --
```

```
;+
```

```
; NAME:
```

```
;   USAGE
```

```
;
```

```
; PURPOSE:
```

```
;   Display help information on any routine in the IDL path
```

```
;   that has a (more or less) standard header.
```

```
;
```

```
; CATEGORY:
```

```
;   Tools
```

```
;
```

```
; CALLING SEQUENCE:
```

```
;   USAGE,routinename
```

```
;
```

```
; INPUTS:
```

```
;   ROUTINENAME -> (string) name of the routine for which help information
```

```
;   shall be provided. Tip: to get help for the current routine use
```

```
;   function routine_name().
```

```
;
```

```
; KEYWORD PARAMETERS:
```

```
;   /PRINTALL -> prints complete header information. Normally, only
```

```
;   "user relevant" information is displayed.
```

```
;
```

```
; OUTPUTS:
```

```
;   prints usage information on the screen.
```

```
;
```

```
; SUBROUTINES:
```

```
;
```

```
; REQUIREMENTS:
```

```
;
```

```

; NOTES:
;   This routine is meant to replace /HELP constructs etc.
;
; EXAMPLE:
;   Error checking :
;
;       if (n_params() ne 2) then begin
;           print,'Invalid number of arguments!'
;           usage,routine_name()
;       endif
;
;   Get the idea what to type from the command line:
;       usage,'my_routine_with_too_many_arguments'
;
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;
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; with subject "IDL routine usage"
;-----

```

```

pro usage,rname,printall=printall

```

```

; extract header information from current routine and print it
; restrict to CALLING_SEQUENCE, INPUTS, KEYWORDS, OUTPUTS and
; EXAMPLE(s)
; This requires that the routine name is identical with the
; filename (lowercase) and that the file contains a standard
; header (i.e. mgs standard).

```

```

ON_ERROR,2 ; return to caller

```

```

; routine name must be provided!
if (n_params() eq 0) then $
    message,'pro USAGE: must provide routinename !'

```

```

; check if pro file exists
rfile = rname + '.pro'

```

```

if (not(file_exist(rfile,path=!PATH,full=full))) then $
  message,'pro USAGE: Cannot find program file for '+rname+' !'

; open file and read in header (read until line is ";" or EOF)
ilun = -1
ON_IOERROR,badfile

openr,ilun,full,/get_lun

line = "
if (keyword_set(PRINTALL)) then printit = 1 else printit = 0

print,strupcase(rname),':'
print

while (not (eof(ilun) OR line eq ';-' ) ) do begin
  readf,ilun,line

  ; determine whether to switch printing on or off
  teststr = strupcase(line)
  if (strpos(teststr,'CALLING SEQUENCE') ge 0 OR $
    strpos(teststr,'EXAMPLE') ge 0) then printit = 1
  if (strpos(teststr,'SUBROUTINE') ge 0 OR $
    strpos(teststr,'MODIFICATION') ge 0) then $
    if (not keyword_set(PRINTALL)) then printit = 0

  ; output header line if requested
  if (printit) then print,line
endwhile

close,ilun

return

badfile:
  if (ilun ge 0) then close,ilun
  print,!error,' ',!err_string
  message,'pro USAGE: File error in '+rfile+' !'

end

```

File Attachments

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- 1) [routine_name.pro](#), downloaded 126 times
 - 2) [usage.pro](#), downloaded 121 times
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Subject: Re: Two new tools

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