Subject: Re: getting data from a pointer Posted by menakkis on Wed, 22 Jul 1998 07:00:00 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Vap User <vapuser@haifung.jpl.nasa.gov> wrote:

- <...> The question is: Is there a similar method to disattach the data
- > from a pointer and return it to a 'normal' IDL variable?
- ..and wondered whether
- > A=temporary(\*B)

was an efficient (and safe) way to get the pointer value back out of pointer B and into a regular variable A.

I think that A=temporary(\*B) works just as you are hoping. If you do HELP,\*B after the "data move" you'll see it as "undefined" - data indeed gone. (And "undefined" is a perfectly acceptable "value" for a pointer. Different to a NULL pointer, of course.)

It would appear that a dereferenced pointer "looks and acts" very much like a regular variable in all sorts of respects.

I would also like to see more detailed notes from RSI about pointers, though.

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