
Subject: Re: no backwards compatibility in IDL 5.6
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 27 Feb 2003 19:17:29 GMT
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Mark Hadfield (m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz) writes:

> So yes, the critics are right: backwards incompatibility has been
> impaired. But the damage was done in 5.5 and the changes in 5.6
> represent an attempt to restore the old behaviour (but you have to add
> a keyword).

I've added an article on my web page with a little
program that produces the same results in IDL 5.4, 5.5,
and 5.6 on my machine.

http://www.dfanning.com/math_tips/atan_change.html

I'd be curious to know if this solves the problem for
everyone:

```
FUNCTION ATAN_COMPLEX_WRAPPER, complexNum

returnValue = 0.0
version = Float(!VERSION.Release)
CASE 1 OF
  (version LE 5.4): ok = Execute('returnValue = ATAN(complexNum)')
  (version EQ 5.5): BEGIN
    realpart = Real_Part(complexNum)
    imgpart = Imaginary(complexNum)
    ok = Execute('returnValue = ATAN(realpart, imgpart)')
  END
  (version GE 5.6): ok = Execute('returnValue = ' + $
    'ATAN(complexNum, /Phase)')
ENDCASE
RETURN, returnValue
END
```

Cheers,

David

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