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Subject: Re: reverse problem

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 04 Nov 2005 17:22:02 GMT

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R.G. Stockwell writes:

> As Paolo points out, the routine is returning the keyword value,  
> replicated to the size of the input array. Neat!  
> So, it is treating reverse as a single element array, then accessing  
> it with the input array as an index (which exceeds the "reverse" array  
> size, and by IDL's default rule, it replicates the last number).  
>  
> example:  
> IDL> x = 1  
>  
> IDL> print, x(findgen(10))  
>  
> 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1  
>  
>  
> But the really really strange thing is that, as I showed in my original  
> post,  
> that the problem was persistent. After running the routine, the keyword  
> "reverse"  
> escaped the local scope of the routine, and came to main level (and thus  
> overwriting the  
> reverse function at the main level). Of course, this is how keywords are  
> supposed to work,  
> but it was kind of a surprise.

Oh, this is neat! This is now my favorite example  
in my Pass-by\_Reference, Pass-by-Value lecture. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. By the way, putting Compile\_Opt idl2 in your IDL startup  
file goes a LONG way to sorting out a lot of these kinds of  
problem.

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

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