
Subject: Re: Pass by value and performance
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 14 Dec 2005 17:54:31 GMT
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Kenneth P. Bowman writes:

```
> Perhaps someone can clarify this for me.
>
> I was doing this
>
> data = {values : FLTARR(...), $
>         other : other stuff ...}
>
> Then pass "data" to a procedure and do this
>
> result = INTERPOLATE(data.values, x, y, z)
>
> In this case data.values is passed by reference. (p. 92 of Building IDL
> Applications)
>
>
> If I were to use pointers, I could do something like this instead
>
> data = {values : PTR_NEW(FLTARR(...)), $
>         other : other stuff ...}
>
> Pass "data" to a procedure and do this
>
> result = INTERPOLATE(*data.values, x, y, z)
>
> Is *data.values passed by reference or by value? And how does one tell?
```

I would test it with my little JUNK program from before,
like so:

```
IDL> b = {ptr:Ptr_New(5)}
IDL> junk, *b.ptr
IDL> help, *b.ptr
<PtrHeapVar26> INT      =      25
```

Whoa! Excuse me. I need to do a little more work on that
pointer chapter.

Cheers,

David

--

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