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Subject: Pass by value and performance

Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Wed, 14 Dec 2005 05:00:03 GMT

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A cautionary note on argument passing ...

I have a large code that does a lot of interpolation in multi-dimensional arrays. Being a clever IDL programmer (too clever by half, as it turns out), I package these arrays into structures along with various information about the arrays. When these arrays are then passed, for example, into INTERPOLATE, as

```
result = INTERPOLATE(data.array, x, y, z)
```

the array is passed by value, which entails making a copy of the array. When these arrays get large, this causes a big performance hit. So, I am in the process of making my code less clever (and uglier) but much faster.

Cheers, Ken Bowman

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