Subject: Re: compile a routine wich inlude a commun
Posted by peter.albert@gmx.de on Tue, 24 Jan 2006 08:09:01 GMT
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Just my 2 cents: imho, the problem with the given example

p=ptr_new(x[1:2,1:2])

is that x[1:2, 1:2] on the right hand side of the equation is, if I remember correctly, actually a new temporary variable. So p is pointing to a temporary variable which has nothing in commion with the variable x, apart from the fact that its initial values equal the appropriate ones of x. After that, any operation on p is totally disconnected to x.
On the other hand, Davids example used

p = ptr_new(x)

and here, p is actually pointing to the memory space occupied by x, so modifying *p actually does modify x.

And yes, for this little example the effect is the same when using temporary() two times, as Paul suggested. But this is not the, umh, only point of pointers. I can hardly imagine how something like Davids highly appreciated linked list object would work using temporary() instead of pointers.

But well, looking at Pauls original wish of using pointers to alias subsets of an array; given the fact that x[...] actually creates a new temporary variable makes me feel that this is actually not possible in IDL. Of course, there might be a way using histogram ...

Cheers,

Peter