Subject: Re: failed matrix inversion returns input-- interesting
Posted by news.verizon.net on Fri, 14 Jul 2006 12:23:54 GMT
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> Is there any reason in creation why IDL simply copies the input into
> the output if it cannot do the inversion? That seems, well, malevolent,
> unless I'm missing something.

One reason you might want this behaviour is to preserve the original array, in cases where the code overwrites the inverse

```
IDL> testm = invert(testm, status)
IDL> if status EQ 1 then print,'Singular Matrix ', testm
```

If INVERT returned, say, NaN values or an undefined variable (the only reasonable alternatives I think), then you would have lost the original array

Incidentally, the LAPACK (LU Decomposition) invert routine LA_INVERT in IDL has the same behavior. ---Wayne