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Subject: Re: R for Astronomers

Posted by [ben.bighair](#) on Fri, 06 Mar 2009 15:22:37 GMT

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On Mar 5, 2:09 pm, Mike <Michael.Mill...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Mar 5, 12:10 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

>

>> Other news about R this morning: R is not immune

>> from the "sky is falling" problem either:

>> <http://tinyurl.com/ap7hdq>

>

> No which of my loves I chose, I will always shoot myself in the other

> foot eventually. :-)

Hi,

Some folks might initially shy away from R based upon its pass-by-value behavior as it comes out of the box. For big blobs of data that can be a real pain. It would be a mistake, however, to think that R can't pass by reference. I won't pretend to understand how it works, but some of the clever R authors have developed techniques to employ pass-by-reference in R. One example is the pretty-easy-to-use R.oo (<http://www1.maths.lth.se/help/R/R.oo/>), but there are other examples in R.

> But I

> still use IDL for many, many things. Computer languages are not quite

> like marriage - I think it is acceptable to be in serious

> relationships with more than one at a time. Of course juggling

> multiple relationships is fraught with danger - witness my continual

> print, x in R and print(x) in IDL...

Man, you can say that again! Another is IDL>source("my\_program.pro") and R>.compile "my\_program.r" Argh!

Cheers,

Ben

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