Subject: Re: renaming a variable without making a copy
Posted by Kenneth P. Bowman on Wed, 09 Dec 2009 15:02:39 GMT

In article <hfmki3$1tf$1@aioe.org>, mgalloy <mgalloy@gmail.com> wrote:

> IDL can handle temporary variables differently. It knows the result of
> the expression
>
>   tempVar + 1
>
> can be placed right back into the temporary variable. It also knows that
> when assigning a temporary variable to a new variable name, as in
>
>   A = temporary(A) + 1
>
> the "assignment" can just attached the name "A" and change the metadata
> of the variable to indicate that it is no longer a temporary variable.

Thanks, Mike. After reading your post I found the Temporary Variables
page in the IDL internals documentation, which is actually relatively
clear:

"IDL maintains a pool of nameless variables known as temporary variables.
These variables are used by the interpreter to hold temporary results
from evaluating expressions, and are also used within system procedures
and functions that need temporary workspace. In addition, system
functions often obtain a temporary variable to return the result of
their operation to the interpreter."

Ken