
Subject: Re: Warning: IDL 8.0 alters the behaviour of existing valid programs without any notice!

Posted by [Timm Weitkamp](#) on Tue, 24 Aug 2010 21:15:28 GMT

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Not that it would actually *help*, but may I add that previous versions of IDL have also "altered the behaviour of existing valid programs without any notice". This happened, for example, when the behavior of ATAN with a complex-valued argument was changed in IDL 5.6.

I actually ran into this problem a short while ago when running a third-party image processing routine that used ATAN to obtain the phase of a complex quantity and had been written in the days before the PHASE keyword.

I noticed because of the slightly weird results the routine gave me. It took me some time. Yes, it was annoying. I believe the change in IDL should not have been made that way. It would have been easy for RSI at the time to do it differently. But I survived, and so did all those other IDL users who need to know the argument of a complex number, I suppose.

Timm
