Subject: Re: using of EXECUTE???
Posted by Peter Mason on Mon, 11 Nov 1996 08:00:00 GMT
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On 8 Nov 1996, Hendrik Roepcke wrote:
> some people of this group warned me to use
> the IDL option:
> EXECUTE("???")
> It will mess up the memory-management of IDL
> after a while they estimated...
>
> But this option is wunderfull for dynamical
> management of data-array!!
> EXECUTE(name_of_array+"=findgen("+string(dim_of_array)+") ")
> shall I use execute or not?
> any hints?

I'd recommend using EXECUTE() only when there isn't a reasonably simple "conventional" way to achieve your goal; e.g., for evaluating expressions typed in by a user of your program.
The docs point out two issues:
. "Compiling the string (execute's arg) at run-time is inefficient..."
. "Do not use EXECUTE to create new variables inside procedures and functions... (it will fail)" (Actually, this does seem to work with a full IDL license. I suspect that it might be crippled under runtime IDL, though - imagine runtime IDL with this restriction lifted.)

In your example above, the only extra facility that EXECUTE gives you which you wouldn't get by simply doing SOME_VARNAME=FINDGEN(DIM_OF_ARRAY) is indirect specification of the array's name. I think that this is really a disadvantage - your program would always have to go via EXECUTE('some op referencing name_of_array') to USE this new array, as it would only know the array's name indirectly.

Peter Mason