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Subject: Re: Parameter passing in PV-Wave  
Posted by [peter](#) on Wed, 06 Nov 1996 08:00:00 GMT  
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Bob Fletcher (Bob.Fletcher@ae.ge.com) wrote:  
: I'm trying to understand the parameter passing in Wave.  
: In the programers manual it says

Now there's your first mistake, reading the manual :)

: 1: 'Variables are passed by reference.' (P. 241)

: On page 242 it says: (bullet 5)

: 2: 'values of parmeters passed by reference are \_copied back  
: into corresponding variables\_'

: and I only have to store the big array once. The pass by reference  
: just passes the address of a, and the subroutine just finds the right  
: memory location and does it's thing. (which allows all those ugly  
: fortran cheats passing parts of multidim. arrays.)

: If I do this in Wave what happens? Quote 1: makes me think  
: that it's like fortran, but quote 2: makes me think that I have to  
: copy the whole array into a separate memory location. ( Bad thing )

The right thing happens, nothing is copied (test by checking the memory  
allocated to the process, allocate something big, then pass it to a  
function). This section of the manual is horribly written, but hasn't  
changed in several years.

: The more general question is, what are the preformance penalties of  
: calling functions and procedures. (And does the compiler do anything  
: smart. Inlining for instance?)

Good question! Any of our regular performance testers want to take this  
one?

Peter

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