
Subject: Re: weird behaviour with cgdemodata
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 21 Jun 2011 17:53:03 GMT
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Jeremy Bailin writes:

> I'm sure there's a good reason why this happens, but it has me very confused:

>

> IDL> i = 5

> IDL> print, i, n_elements(cgdemodata(i))

> 4 65536

>

> Okay, that looks fine. Now what if I put that in a for loop?

>

>

> IDL> for i=0,5 do print, i, n_elements(cgdemodata(i))

> 0 101

> 0 101

> 0 101

> 0 101

> 0 101

> 0 101

> 0 101

> 0 101

> 0 101

> 0 101

> 0 101

> 0 101

> 0 101

> 0 101

> 0 101

> 0 101

> ...repeat ad infinitum, i.e. until you hit Ctrl-C

>

>

> What is going on???

This is one of those "pass by reference" things that drives you crazy every once in awhile. It turns out I am actually **changing** the value of the variable number in the code. (It never occurred to me someone would call this function in a loop, for God's sake!!)

If you pass the value "i" by value, you should get what you expect:

```
IDL> for i=0,5 do print, i, n_elements(cgdemodata(i[0]))
```

```
0     101
```

1	101
2	1681
3	1681
4	65536
5	65536

Cheers,

David

--

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thos speakest truth.")
