

---

Subject: IDLVM and execute

Posted by [TonyLanz](#) on Fri, 20 Jan 2012 20:36:43 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Hi all,

I realize this has been asked on the group before. I'm hoping someone might have a "simple" workaround in IDLVM to what would be easily accomplished using the execute function in IDL proper. I have a widget program that contains a compound widget field that allows the user to define an equation for manipulating a set of four variables. For the sake of argument let's say var1, var2, var3, and var4. In this compound widget field they can define what math they want to do, they're restricted to addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

so they could for example enter

var1/var2

or

var1-var2\*0.2

or

var1+var2+var3

etc., you get the idea. Now in IDL I can just get the value from the widget and simply do something like

```
s='result='+cwidget_value(0)
```

```
status=execute(s)
```

```
print,result
```

of course in IDLVM I'm not allowed to use EXECUTE()

Anyone have any suggestions for implementing this simply? I know in the past there was discussion of writing code to break down the string and pass the pieces to the right operators or functions (using call\_function() ) to assemble the result.

Tony

---