Subject: Re: Very basic IDL vector question
Posted by Helder Marchetto on Tue, 03 May 2016 12:32:07 GMT
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On Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at 1:08:11 PM UTC+1, kubota wrote:
> Hi Helder, you've made the two possible answers for fc (scalar or vector) very clear by your two examples. Thank you.
>
> Continuing on, if the two function calls were, for some reason, called in reverse order, with the testDouble call done first, then fc will become an array with values, 0, 2, 4,.. 18.
> If we then call testTotal with the same xc values (0 to 9), how does fc deal with the scalar result given that it is (currently) an array? Does fc change from an array to a scalar, with the result 45? If so, I presume all the previous (0,2,4, .. 18) 10 array values are lost at that moment?
>
> Thanks again.

I think that the question you're asking is "is the parameter xc passed by reference or value?"
What this asks is if the function you're calling will in the process affect the original data contained in xc (passed by reference) or not (passed by value).

Have a look at this article for clarification:
http://www.harrisgeospatial.com/docs/parameter_passing_mecha n.html

If you're unsure, test like this:

```
fun = 'testTotal'
xc = findgen(10)
print, 'before', xc
fc = call_function(fun,xc)
print, 'after', xc
```

of course for both functions.

Cheers,
Helder