Subject: Corruption of string variable in IDL V5.3
Posted by landsman on Sat, 11 Mar 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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I like the upgrade of the STRMID function in IDL V5.3 so that it can now handle vector arguments. But the following code shows how in certain cases, STRMID can also now corrupt a string variable:

```
IDL >print,!version
{ sparc sunos unix 5.3 Nov 11 1999}

    st = 'idl40\avg.pro'
    g =  intarr(1)
    st[0] = strmid(st[g], 6, 7)

;     print,'st = ',st,byte(st)

    name = st
    name[0] = strmid(st[g],0,3 )

    print,'st = ',st,byte(st)
```

If the first print statement is uncommented, then the output is as expected:

```
st = avg.pro  97 118 103  46 112 114 111
st = avg.pro  97 118 103  46 112 114 111
```

But if the first print statement is left as a comment, then a byte(0) gets inserted into the string, st

```
st = avgt,'  97 118 103   0 112 114 111
```

(You can imagine my frustration during debugging, not realizing that a diagnostic print statement was changing the results.)

--Wayne Landsman landsman@mpb.gsfc.nasa.gov

P.S. A related wish for IDL V5.4 is that the STR_SEP function allow vector arguments -- or at the very least, that it be rewritten internally to use the vector features of STRMID.