
Subject: Re: [Q]Passing parts of structure arrays between routines

Posted by [Tim Patterson](#) on Fri, 23 Aug 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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Peter Suetterlin wrote:

>

> In article <321CE1F6.41C6@raptor.lpl.arizona.edu>,

> Tim Patterson <tim@raptor.lpl.arizona.edu> writes:

>

>> Is this use of temporary variables the only solution,

>> and why can't I get the 'correct' result using the

>> neater array_test procedure? I can't find anything under

>> 'arrays' or 'structures' in the IDL docs that say I shouldn't

>> be able to do it that way.

>

> Yes, it is, because IDL can pass subarrays only by value and not by

> reference. Therefore, you can never change the original variable.

> This is not restricted to structures but is valid for any kind of data

> that is (has to be) passed by value. See the part of the Manual about

> parameter passing in IDL.

>

> Peter

>

Thanks Peter, and to the others who emailed me.

Tim

Subject: Re: [Q]Passing parts of structure arrays between routines

Posted by [pit](#) on Fri, 23 Aug 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <321CE1F6.41C6@raptor.lpl.arizona.edu>,

Tim Patterson <tim@raptor.lpl.arizona.edu> writes:

> I have an array of structures within my IDL code,

> and I would like to select just one structure from

> the array and pass it to another routine to have

> its contents altered.

[does not work]

> Is this use of temporary variables the only solution,

> and why can't I get the 'correct' result using the

> neater array_test procedure? I can't find anything under

> 'arrays' or 'structures' in the IDL docs that say I shouldn't

> be able to do it that way.

Yes, it is, because IDL can pass subarrays only by value and not by reference. Therefore, you can never change the original variable. This is not restricted to structures but is valid for any kind of data that is (has to be) passed by value. See the part of the Manual about parameter passing in IDL.

Peter

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