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Subject: Re: IDL batch mode: Command line args?  
Posted by [bowman](#) on Thu, 02 Apr 1998 08:00:00 GMT  
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In article <35215975.41C6@mail.mmrrcc.upenn.edu>, Mark Elliott  
<mark@mail.mmrrcc.upenn.edu> wrote:

```
> I'd like to run IDL (from UNIX) in batch mode with a command  
> like:  
>  
> unixprompt> idl batchprog.pro
```

This is how I run an IDL program in batch mode with arguments.

Create a script file named batch\_myprog like this:

```
-----  
echo Running MYPROG  
rm $1.out  
rm $1.err  
  
(echo .run myprog ;\  
 echo myprog, '$1' ;\  
 echo exit)          |\  
idl 1>>$1.out 2>>$1.err  
-----
```

Make sure batch\_myprog is set to have execute permission. (This example is K shell, but C shell would be similar.)

In this case, MYPROG is an IDL procedure in the file myprog.pro. It takes one argument (the name of file to be read by MYPROG in this case). The script will print a message ("Running MYPROG"). Then it will remove files called \$1.out and \$1.err, where \$1 is the first argument to the script batch\_myprog when you run it. Then it will create an input stream telling IDL to compile myprog and execute it with the value of \$1 as the argument. This input stream is piped to IDL.

To run the batch job use:

```
nohup batch_my_prog input_file_1 &
```

I use this where the argument \$1 is a file name to be read by myprog.pro. The output of the IDL job will be in input\_file\_1.out and input\_file\_1.err. If you want to pass numeric arguments, you should probably redirect IDL output to different files than \$1.out and \$1.err.

This is certainly not a generic solution, but for simple argument lists it

works fine. An alternative is to write the batch script arguments to a file and then pipe that to IDL. This script avoids the intermediate file by creating the input stream with 'echo'.

Regards, Ken Bowman

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