
Subject: Re: directing control after program interruption
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Thu, 18 May 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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"D. Mattes" <dmattes@u.washington.edu> writes:

> hello IDL power users: i have a long minimization process running under
> IDL. i would like the user to be able to interrupt the process at any
> time. once the user interrupts by typing ctrl-c, i would like to direct
> program control to a different part of the routine. the only way i know
> to resume the program run is the .continue executive command, but that
> just continues on with the next statement, whereas i would like to branch
> to the end of the routine. is there a system variable that is set when a
> user interrupts program flow? or does this fall into exception handling?

I do not think IDL is capable of what you are asking. On the other hand, you can check for another control character to use for a termination criterium. The GET_KBRD() function will poll the keyboard without pausing, so you can do this periodically (i.e., every iteration). Unfortunately, it will consume the keyboard buffer contents, but that's the price you pay.

Here is how I do it in MPFIT, which looks for control-G (= ASCII 7):

```
k = get_kbrd(0)
if k EQ string(byte(7)) then begin
    message, 'WARNING: minimization not complete', /info
    print, 'Do you want to terminate this procedure? (y/n)', $
        format='(A,$)'
    k = "
    read, k
    if strupcase(strmid(k,0,1)) EQ 'Y' then begin
        message, 'WARNING: Procedure is terminating.', /info
        mperr = -1
    endif
endif
```

MPFIT is a least squares fitter available here:

<http://cow.physics.wisc.edu/~craigm/idl/idl.html>

Good luck!
Craig

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