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Subject: Re: how can i call a compiled fortran code from IDL?  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 06 Feb 2003 04:08:22 GMT  
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mads (madhu@erc.msstate.edu) writes:

- > This is what I need to do. I need to integrate the kuusk canopy reflectance
- > model(5 .f files) into IDL code. I can use g77 and compile them into .exe
- > and call from IDL - in this case how do i do it?

Uh, SPAWN.

- > or i can call the fortran
- > code directly frm IDL. In this case how do I do it?

You don't want to do this. :-)

- > If the explanation is
- > too complicated where online can I find it.

I'd try this:

```
IDL> ? SPAWN
```

This FORTRAN code takes no input and produces a file as output, right? After it produces the file (and SPAWN returns), you can just read the file into IDL.

- > If its impossible I might as
- > well recode all the fortran code in IDL . This will require that I learn
- > FORTRAN first :(

Well, it is MUCH easier to learn FORTRAN than it is to learn the IDL internals with the documentation available. I really recommend SPAWN. Even I can understand how that works. :-)

- > Please help me in these 2 options. I have to further automate everything to
- > train SNNS into recognising canopy types. So spawning and typing command
- > will not serve my purpose.

Why would you be typing something? You will SPAWN the command that runs your FORTRAN program:

```
SPAWN, '/usr/local/me/myprogram.exe'  
; Now I am going to read the data file MYPROGRAM produced  
OpenR, lun, 'myprogram_output.dat', /Get_Lun  
etc.
```

> I tried all resources but couldnt find relevant info.

It's a pain, sometimes.

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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