
Subject: how to interrupt in IDL for windows ?

Posted by [Kristian Kjaer](#) on Wed, 23 Apr 2003 15:34:21 GMT

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(I've been using IDL a lot recently, and now I am stopping to ask for help with various problems I encountered.)

In IDL for windows you can't always get control back if you let IDL loose on something that takes forever.

I am using Craig Markwardt's nice MPFITFUN. Usually it converges fast but sometimes by mistake I let it loose with the wrong start parameters, too many free parameters, and a large number of allowed iterations. Then I can only sit and wait for my IDL prompt to come back, or kill the whole process and loose some of my work.

On linux I think it always works to type ctrl(c) into the xterm window where you run idl (not idlde). Then you get an IDL prompt, and RETALL brings you back to MAIN level.

But on windows you can type ctrl(c) or ctrl(break) to your heart's desire, and IDL will keep droning on. The problem may be that you can't get focus on the command line so ctrl(break) ends up in the wrong place. I used to think that it helped to include

WAIT,0.05

inside loops, but now I still don't get control back with ctrl(c) or ctrl(break) (IDL 5.2 and 5.6).

Does anyone know how to interrupt simply?

Failing that, does anyone have a widget stop button that could be queried inside loops and appropriately reacted on?

Thanks for any advice,
- Kristian
