
Subject: Re: chi^2 minimisations & calling c
Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Tue, 14 Oct 2003 17:21:19 GMT
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"Dan B" wrote...

- > Before I go and get Ronn Klings book on calling c from IDL am
- > I going to be able to code a chi^2 minimisation routine?

Yes. If you can code it, it will come.

- > The c program is already written and needs 6 parameters passed
- > to it. It then does its thing and outputs a formatted ascii
- > file (the model based on the parameters :D).

<snip>

- > I'm pretty sure that this is going to be possible, and that Ronn's
- > book is going to be of some help (p.s. I've seen copies going for \$180
- > on amazon :eek:) I just want to be sure.

Wow! \$180! I'll sell you mine for \$100, complete with margin notes and latte stains. Or, you could go to his website and spend \$40.
www.kilvarock.com

As much as I think that every serious IDL programmer (all 7 of us) should master the dlm, I don't think you would need to go thru the trouble unless you view this as a fun exercise. CALL_EXTERNAL should work with minimal effort but it does assume that your functions use the argc-argv calling convention and this might be where you are getting hung up.

- > oh, and I don't suppose anyone is going to be cheeky enough to give me
- > a helping hand start? :D I've mucked around with call_external, but
- > it all goes horribly wrong, as, quite frankly, I don't understand the
- > help files.

If you need to go the dlm route because you can't or don't want to make your function work with CALL_EXTERNAL all you really need to do is wrap your function inside the dlm. I wish I could point you to a proper example in the IDL distribution which would illustrate the passing of different data types back and forth but RSI's effort in this area is really pitiful. Ronn's book is the way to go.

Good luck!

-Rick
