Subject: Data acquisition with IDL...
Posted by Haje Korth on Mon, 18 Jul 2005 12:36:26 GMT
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Good morning everyone,
I had this urge on the weekend to convert a LabView data acquisition software to IDL. Why? Because my brain has a hard time digesting the visual coding done in LabView. With regards to the data acquisition everything when fine. A short DLM was suffcient to read the voltages from the NIDAQ card. The problem came with the visualization for which I wrote some widget code. I put in a button for start/stop sampling and plotting the data, one datum at the time. I always thought that the event loop runs through continuously so that I can sample and plot at the beginning of the event handler before the case statement checking for the event that occurred. However, when I actually tested the code, I found out that the event handler only executes when an event happened so that I have to hit the sample button for every single measurement.

So, the questions I have are:
1. Can I make the event handler execute continuously somehow? And if not, can I and how do I handle the events myself (without XMANAGER)?
2. Since spacing of data point is kind of important (regular intervals are always preferred), can I rely on the timing in IDL? My goal is to take a measurement across three channels every second.

I have never done data acquisition with IDL, so I have no idea how feasible my ideas are. So your input is highly welcome.

Cheers,
Haje

PS: Please do not suggest the LabView bridge to IDL. The fact is that I do not like LabView!!! Besides I am sure the cost of the bridge soft is beyond what I can justify to spend on this task.