
Subject: Question on call_external

Posted by [alban](#) on Wed, 07 Jun 2006 09:00:02 GMT

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Hi all,

I am using call_external to call several C function from IDL.
Everything has just worked fine so far, and I am very pleased with the results. I installed in a local folder the FFTW library -several tests I made gave that a complex-valued 1D FFT was quite faster than IDL's- and would like to use it.

Compiling and linking like I had always done -Linux machine-

```
gcc -o *.so *.c -shared -lm -I*/fftw*/include/ -O3
```

seems to work fine. But when using the library in an IDL function I get the following message

```
% Compiled module: GET_FILE_NAMES.  
% Compiled module: READ_MOTION.  
% CALL_EXTERNAL: Error loading sharable executable.  
      Symbol: call_owh, File = */*.so  
      */*.so: undefined symbol: fftw_malloc  
% Execution halted at: I_PRO_TR      103 */*.pro  
%      $MAIN$
```

which is a clear indicator something is not working when linking the fftw library, since IDL is unable to find just the functions included in this library. Performing a two-step generation like the following yields good results.

```
gcc -c */*.c -O3 -fPIC  
ld *.o -shared -o *.so
```

It is evident I do not quite know precisely what I am doing, even if it happens to work fine. Could anyone put a light into my darkness?
Many thanx.

Marc
