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Subject: Re: Can't pass data with CALL\_EXTERNAL to C function

Posted by [Trae](#) on Fri, 20 Jun 2008 14:56:41 GMT

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Dan,

In your call to call\_external I don't see that you set the VALUE keyword. This is what tells call\_external which parameters you are passing via value and which via reference. This may be the cause of your problems. Whenever I am forced to use call\_external, I set this keyword manually,

From the help manual:

#### VALUE

A byte array, with as many elements as there are optional parameters, indicating the method of parameter passing. Arrays are always passed by reference. If parameter Pi is a scalar, it is passed by reference if VALUE[i] is 0; and by value if it is non-zero. There are some restrictions on data types that should be considered when using this keyword, as discussed below.

As Brian noted, using call\_external can be a beast. We worked on a project for a week, before I concluded that it was much faster (and easier) to rewrite the offending C code in IDL. Many a frustration beer was drunk that day. :)

Good Luck!

-Trae

On Jun 19, 3:32 pm, Dan <daniel.dex...@colorado.edu> wrote:

> Hi Brian,

>

> Thanks for the tutorial, but I couldn't figure out how to make it work  
> for my C code. In particular, none of the pointers work, not just the  
> ones for the multi-D arrays.

>

> Could you (or someone) please clarify how you got pass by reference to  
> work.

>

> Thanks again,

> -Dan

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