
Subject: Re: newbie wants to call IDL from shell
Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Sat, 12 Jul 2008 01:59:49 GMT
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On Jul 11, 8:36 pm, Tom Roche <tlro...@gmail.com> wrote:

```
> How to exec IDL procedures from a shell or other programming
> environment? (Correctly: see failed attempt below.) Note that I'm not
> talking about creating a runtime distribution; I just want to be able
> to call a procedure from the OS commandline, not from the IDL
> commandline, on a box with IDL installed. Why I ask:
>
> My group mostly uses IDL to interact with netCDF files. I'm noticing
> that, in scripts I've been given, we do a lotta code where we type in
> literals to specify files on which to operate, e.g.
>
> indir = '/path/to'
> files = ['foo' , 'bar' , 'baz']
> FOR i = 0, n_elements(files)-1 DO BEGIN
>   filename = files[i]
>   infile = indir+'/'+filename
>   doSomethingWith, infile
> ENDFOR
>
> I'd prefer to use IDL for things it does well, and use something more
> general-purpose (e.g. bash, perl, python) (i.e. something I already
> know how to use :-) to drive it, e.g.
>
> # bash
> for INFILE in $(bash fu) ; do
>   idl < doSomethingWith $INFILE
> done
>
> So I thought I'd start simple: I have a script (my first script that
> does something useful!)
>
> public1:/home/tlr/idl> ls -al regrid_mozt42_tlr.pro> -rw-r--r--  1 tlr m 755 Jul 10 16:11
regrid_mozt42_tlr.pro
>
> public1:/home/tlr/idl> cat regrid_mozt42_tlr.pro
>
>> COMPILE_OPT IDL2
>> PRO regrid_mozt42_tlr
> ...
>> END
>
> done in the deprecated style above, which works from the IDL shell
> with no args (because everything is literal within the *.pro):
>
```

```

> public1:/home/tlr/idl> idl
>
>> IDL Version 7.0 (linux x86 m32). (c) 2007, ITT Visual Information Solutions
>> ...
>> IDL> regrid_mozt42_tlr
>> % Compiled module: REGRID_MOZT42_TLR.
>> ...
>> Done.
>
> Now I just want to run it from the commandline, in the same directory
> as above (which is in my IDL_DIR):
>
> public1:/home/tlr/idl> idl < regrid_mozt42_tlr.pro
>
>> IDL Version 7.0 (linux x86 m32). (c) 2007, ITT Visual Information Solutions
>> ...
>> PRO regrid_mozt42_tlr
>>      ^
>> % Programs can't be compiled from single statement mode.
>
> What do I need to do to make that work? Or how else should I do this?
> Apologies if this is a FAQ but I haven't found any answers either
> googling or in the online help. If I should RTFM, please pass pointer.
>
> TIA, Tom Roche <Tom_Ro...@pobox.com>

```

Here's what I do:

1- make a .sav file.

```

IDL> .comp regrid_mozt42_tlr
IDL> resolve_all
IDL> save, /routines, file='regrid_mozt42_tlr.sav'

```

2- make a shell script to call it.

```
#!/bin/bash
```

<get command line args etc.

store them in environment variables, and export them
use GETENV() to get them in the idl routine.>

```

idl -rt=regrid_mozt42_tlr.sav
exit

```

You can also pass the cmd-line args to the idl command, but I've been doing it the Env Variable way for so long...

Your mileage may vary.

Cheers,
Vince
