
Subject: Re: Invoking a COM object method, that results in two arrays

Posted by [rtowler](#) on Sat, 19 Jul 2008 00:52:50 GMT

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On Jul 18, 1:54 pm, Karlo Janos wrote:

> rtowler wrote:

>> What are the types of the data in each of the cell arrays?

>

> As far as I know the function results in two "double"-arrays. At least

> both arrays should be of the same type.

>

>> If they are different then there is no way ...

>

> And if they are of the same type? What chance do I have?

>

> If there is no direct possibility to get the result, my last chance

> might be using a wrapper function written in C, that puts the results in

> one single array and can be invoked from IDL. Unfortunately I am not

> experienced in C, so the direct way would be the better one for me.

I'm guessing here, but your method probably returns a 2 element variant array where each element is a variant containing doubles (in other words a variant of variants). IDL doesn't handle variants well. It can handle a variant that contains a single type, but it cannot handle variants containing mixed types or as in your case variants containing variants.

I think that you'll need to look at writing a dlm that acts as a wrapper. If you want to win an award for the most obtuse route you could use MATLAB's COM server functionality to pass this data to IDL:

```
ml=obj_new('IDLcomIDDispatch$PROGID$matlab.application')
<insert MATLAB commands to invoke your COM client>
null=ml->execute('result=XFLib.The_Function(some, para,meters);')
resultarray1=ml->execute('result{1}')
resultarray2=ml->execute('result{2}')
```

Of course the data returned to IDL is of type string which you would have to parse. I'm not saying it's a good idea :) If you decide to write the DLM, you'll want Ronn Kling's book "Calling C and C++ from IDL". I've found it indispensable. <http://www.kilvarock.com/books/callingCfromIDL.htm>

-Rick

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