
Subject: Re: "Share data with external processes"

Posted by [djackson](#) on Mon, 20 Jan 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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> Ken Stone <k.a.stone@larc.nasa.gov> writes:

>

>> Does anyone know of a fast way to transfer a large array (say
>> `fltarr(2000)`) from another process? My first thought was to write the
>> data to a file, and then read it back into IDL. But time is of
>> a critical nature in this case. Then I found `CALL_EXTERNAL`, but it
>> seems to only return a scalar (Is that true?).

If you're doing this on a Unix system, I have some experience I might share. In one of my programs, I use 'spawn' to start the other process with the 'unit=' option (and '/noshell' might be useful, too) which then works as a bidirectional pipe. You can write to it and read from it, just as if you were at the command line.

I really can't comment on whether this would be faster than other methods, or if it even could work in your situation, but I thought I'd drop it into the hat!

Cheers,

-Dick

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Opinions are mine alone. National Research Council Canada, Winnipeg

"And I told him my dream was to live for all time

In some perfect refrain, like the man who wrote 'Danny Boy'."

- Joe Jackson, from the album `_Night_Music_`, 1994.
