
Subject: idl hangs when reading ascii file

Posted by [Søren Frimann](#) on Fri, 18 May 2012 16:17:56 GMT

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Hi all,

I'm having a problem that I myself at least consider very strange.

I'm running the below bit of code in IDL

```
*****  
spawnrob, 'cat rot.out',data  
instr = fltarr(2,n_elements(data))  
print, n_elements(data)  
for i=0,n_elements(data)-1 do begin  
  instr(*,i) = float(strsplit(data(i),/extract))  
endfor  
*****
```

The code uses the shell command cat to read the file 'rot.out'. This piece of code is runs over and over since the ascii file 'rot.out' is constantly deleted and created anew. At some point however some process hang -- I have no control of the terminal and have to kill idl.

I know the problem comes from the above piece of code from printing diagnostic statements throughout the program, and I've discovered that it always stalls at some point within the for-loop

There seems to be no problem with the ascii file itself (after killing I can restart idl and read the file with no problems), and the code will have worked fine for more than 100 calls before failing.

I've tried introducing wait commands to make sure that the ascii file has been written and deleted properly from the disk before trying to read it, but that doesn't help either.

I've tried several other ways of reading in the file, but nomatter what method I use the code will always fail after some time.

I'm on ubuntu 12.04 32-bit and use IDL 7.0. I've also tried running the code on my Ubuntu 12.04 64-bit laptop, also running IDL 7.0, but with same result.

I've never had a problem in IDL that baffles me quite this much. Any help would be much appreciated.

Cheers,

