
Subject: Re: How to send a CHARACTER to a C/C++/FORTRAN function via CALL_EXTERNAL?

Posted by [Matt Francis](#) on Thu, 14 Feb 2013 05:08:24 GMT

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On Thursday, 14 February 2013 05:44:34 UTC+11, Brian J. Daniel wrote:

> A character is one byte. You could try the byte data type defined with the appropriate ASCII value.

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> On Tuesday, February 12, 2013 8:36:16 PM UTC-5, Bogdanovist wrote:

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>> I'm having trouble getting a CALL_EXTERNAL call to work. I think the issue is the requirement to send a CHARACTER*1. To be specific, I'm trying to call dgels from LAPACK, see here

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>> http://www.netlib.org/lapack/explore-html/d7/d3b/group__double_g_esolve.html#ga225c8efde208eaf246882df48e590eac

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>> I know from previous experience that you have to be careful to get all arguments to CALL_EXTERNAL exactly right, making IDL INTs into LONGs, making sure to get single/double precision etc correct. However this one I can't seem to crack. It doesn't surprise me that the IDL STRING is not equivalent to CHARACTER, but how can I send this correctly?

Thanks! I've tried using:

```
trans='N'  
c_trans=BYTE(N[0])
```

but my IDL session still dies when I send this to the routine. There may be other problems with the other arguments though. Do you know if BYTE() will assign the correct ASCII Byte code or do I need to look that up and assign it directly (numerically)?
