
Subject: Simplest way to spawn multiple IDL processes from within IDL?

Posted by [rjp23](#) on Fri, 06 Jun 2014 12:27:02 GMT

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I have a piece of code that I want to run on multiple data files with the only difference in the input being the date within each filename.

Previously for a small number of files I've just done it in a loop something like this:

```
dates=['200901', '200902', '200903']
```

```
FOR i=0, n_elements(dates)-1 do begin  
  this_date=dates[i]  
  processing_code, this_date  
ENDFOR
```

The processing_code routine itself can take a while to run and now that the number of dates I'm processing is getting larger I wondered if there was a straightforward way to spawn multiple instances of IDL from within the main IDL procedure. I don't need any input back into the main procedure from the subroutine that does the processing so I was hoping that there was a straightforward way.

I've looked at http://slugidl.pbworks.com/w/page/37642590/split_for%20tutorial and while it does what I want to some extent, it'd be nicer if I could explicitly control the number of splits (so as not to swamp our server).

I wondered whether a simple spawn command that echoed the commands back into an IDL process would work but I can't seem to get it to.

Any other thoughts?

Cheers

Rob
