Subject: Re: IDL and C inter-language communication / call_external()
Posted by Craig Markwardt on Tue, 22 Jul 2014 21:35:23 GMT

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On Tuesday, July 22, 2014 3:34:44 PM UTC-4, Frink3141 wrote:
> Hey,
>
> I have a plotting routine written in C that I call from IDL via call_external() command and this works pretty well. Now I want to plot the fit function with IDL (continously updated) while the external code is fitting.
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> I tried to call IDL_Execute() command from C, but this failed and then I read that this is only supported in "Callable IDL". But "Callable IDL" is not a solution because i need to pass data to the C routine from a IDL shell.
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>
> If there is no solution with call_external() to realize this: What would be the appropriate way to do this kind of bidirectional communication?
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> To sum it up:
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> - I want to pass data from a IDL shell to a C routine.
>
> - Within the C routine I want to call IDL functions (plot) which make use of data generated by the C routine.
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> Thank you.

One way would be to have the C routine return occasionally with partial results and allow your IDL routine to plot them. That involves the least disruption and least potential for error.

Another possibility is to call your routine as a part of an external program. Then you could use some form of interprocess communication to communicate status and partial results. (In Unixy environments, you would just spit out some ASCII data to standard output.)

Craig