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Subject: Re: IDL and C inter-language communication / `call_external()`

Posted by [inkorporiert](#) on Thu, 24 Jul 2014 09:08:53 GMT

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If I understand aright you mean that I call the routine via `call_external()` with initial value, then it does the first fitting step and ends returning the partial results, IDL plots and executes `call_external()` again with the last partial results and so on? Okay, this is a possibility, but would involve as far as I see a lot of changes in the C routine. Futhermore I think this would slow down everything a lot.

I didn't get what you mean by your second suggestion. The "external program" is a kind of deamon with the fitting routine waiting for input?

My primary idea was to allocate memory for the partial results with idl and pass that via `call_external()` to C. This way idl has access to the data and could plot it. But there are two problems: First I would have to create another thread for the plotting in IDL. But the major problem is the synchronisation: IDL should only plot after C has written the array and C should only write after IDL has read the array. This would require some kind of mutex-status variables that may be difficult to implement.

Thank you.

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