Subject: Re: newbie question: redirect stdout? Posted by Liam Gumley on Wed, 22 Sep 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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"Andreas V. Kadavanich" wrote:

> I'm running IDL 5.2.1 on a PowerMac

>

- > I am running a batch program which takes about 5 hours per iteration (so I
- > don't want to sit there watching) and generates a lot of output (mostly
- > diagnostic messages) to stdout.

>

- > I would like to log this output to a file, preferably by redirecting
- > stdout (and stderr) to a file. I am stumped as to how to accomplish this
- > within IDL short of changing all my print statements to explicitly write
- > to a file (which wouldn't help with IDL generated messages).

On UNIX systems, you can use standard input and output, e.g.

% idl < input > output

but since you're on a Mac, this doesn't help.

One approach is to change your PRINT statements to PRINTF, and use the standard output logical unit number (-1) when you want output to the log window (IDL reserves the logical unit numbers 0, -1, -2 for stdin, stdout, stderr). Here's an example:

PRO MYPRO, OUTFILE=OUTFILE

;- Check output file keyword

if n_elements(outfile) eq 0 then begin
;- No output file specified, so send output to stdout outlun = -1
endif else begin
;- Output file was specified, so open it

- ;- Output file was specified, so open it openw, outlun, outfile, /get_lun endelse
- ;- Print startup message printf, outlun, 'Program started at ', systime(1)
- ;*** Use PRINTF instead of PRINT in your program ***
- ;- Print finish message printf, outlun, 'Program finished at ', systime(1)
- ;- Close the output file if necessary

if outlun gt 0 then free_lun, outlun

END

For more information, consult the online help: IDL>? logical unit numbers

It is true that this won't re-direct any error messages from IDL to the output file. But messages from IDL are most likely to be either compilation messages or fatal error messages, and you'll see these in the command log window easily because all other output is going to a file. If you want to get really tricky, you can trap the IDL errors yourself. See David Fanning's tip at http://www.dfanning.com/tips/catch_trace.html

Cheers, Liam.

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Subject: Re: newbie question: redirect stdout?
Posted by m218003 on Thu, 23 Sep 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <37E916E5.9A0B264B@ssec.wisc.edu>, Liam Gumley <Liam.Gumley@ssec.wisc.edu> writes:

- > "Andreas V. Kadavanich" wrote:
- >> I'm running IDL 5.2.1 on a PowerMac

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- >> stdout (and stderr) to a file.

How about a journal file? That would also be platform independent. You open a journal file with IDL> journal, 'mylogfile'

Then you run your program and afterwards you close the journal file with IDL> journal

Cheers.