
Subject: call C routine on a Linux computer

Posted by [Shunrong Zhang](#) on Tue, 08 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hi,

I was trying to call a simple C routine using call_external, but failed.

The C code file is sample.c (IDL 5.1 External Development Guide, p 108)

```
#include <stdio.h>
float sum_array(argc, argv)
int argc;
void *argv[];
{
    float *fp, s = 0.0; int n;
    for(n = *(int *) argv[1], fp = (float *) argv[0]; n--; )
        s += *fp++;
    return(s);}

```

I worked with a Linux computer, and the C compiler is gcc (v2.7). So I compiled and linked in the following way,

```
cc -fPIC -c sample.c
ld -shared -o sample.so sample.o

```

Then from IDL,

```
X = FINDGEN(10)
S = CALL_EXTERNAL('sample.so', '_sum_array' X, N_ELEMENTS(X),
/F_VALUE)

```

There came out a message of syntax error.

I changed the entry point name from '_sum_array' to 'sum_array', the same error message came out.

What was my entry point name ? Anything wrong in my above procedure ?

Thank you in advance !

S.-R.

Subject: Re: call C routine on a Linux computer

Posted by [Steve\[2\]](#) on Wed, 09 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Shunrong Zhang wrote:

```
> Hi,  
>  
> I was trying to call a simple C routine using call_external, but failed.  
>  
> The C code file is sample.c (IDL 5.1 External Development Guide, p 108)  
>  
> #include <stdio.h>  
> float sum_array(argc, argv)  
> int argc;  
> void *argv[];  
> {  
>   float *fp, s = 0.0; int n;  
>   for(n = *(int *) argv[1], fp = (float *) argv[0]; n--; )  
>     s += *fp++;  
>   return(s);}  
>  
> I worked with a Linux computer, and the C compiler is gcc (v2.7). So I  
> compiled and linked in the following way,  
>  
> cc -fPIC -c sample.c  
> ld -shared -o sample.so sample.o  
>
```

It looks like the problem is in your C compilation: when you use cc, use: cc -fPIC sample.c -o sample.o . gcc will output executable as 'a.out' unless you use the -o option. Is your compilation giving you a sample.o file?

```
>  
> Then from IDL,  
>  
> X = FINDGEN(10)  
> S = CALL_EXTERNAL('sample.so', '_sum_array' X, N_ELEMENTS(X),  
> /F_VALUE)  
>  
> There came out a message of syntax error.  
> I changed the entry point name from '_sum_array' to 'sum_array', the  
> same error message came out.  
>  
> What was my entry point name ? Anything wrong in my above procedure ?  
>  
> Thank you in advance !  
>  
> S.-R.
```
