
Subject: IDL communicate with FORTRAN

Posted by [Gary Fu](#) on Tue, 27 May 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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Hi,

The IDL User's Guide has an example about how IDL communicates with a C program. What should I do, if I want to write in FORTRAN in this example ?

Thanks.

Gary

C program:

```
#include <stdio.h>
extern int errno; /* System error number */
extern char *sys_errlist[]; /* System error messages */
extern int sys_nerr; /* Length of sys_errlist */
main()
{
    float *data, total = 0.0;
    long i, n;
    /* Make sure the output is not buffered */
    setbuf(stdout, (char *) 0);
    /* Find out how many points */
    if (!fread(&n, sizeof(long), 1, stdin)) goto error;
    /* Get memory for the array */
    if (!(data = (float *) malloc((unsigned)
    (n * sizeof(float)))) goto error;
    /* Read the data */
    if (!fread(data, sizeof(float), n, stdin)) goto error;
    /* Calculate the average */
    for (i=0; i < n; i++) total += data[i];
    total /= (float) n;
    /* Return the answer */
    if (!fwrite(&total, sizeof(float), 1, stdout))
    goto error;
    return;
error:
    fprintf(stderr, "test_pipe: %s\n",
    sys_errlist[errno]);
}
```

IDL program:

```
SPAWN, 'test_pipe', UNIT = UNIT, /NOSHELL
WRITEU, UNIT, 10L, FINDGEN(10)
READU, UNIT, ANSWER
PRINT, "Average = ", ANSWER
FREE_LUN, UNIT
```

Executing these statements gives the result:

Average = 4.50000

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