Subject: FITS binary table software for IDL
Posted by thompson on Thu, 05 Mar 1992 21:39:00 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

FITS BINARY TABLE SOFTWARE FOR IDL
======================================

This is to announce the availability of FITS binary table I/O software for use
with the language IDL. This software is being provided as part of the IDL
Astronomy User's Library, of which more information is discussed below.

This software supports the binary table extension as described in "Binary Table
Extension to FITS: A Proposal", by W. D. Cotton, and D. Tody, which can also
be found in the latest version of the "NOST FITS Implementation Draft
Standard". In particular, the software supports the following:

 * The "Multidimensional Array Convention" (the TDIMn keywords) from
   Appendix A of Cotton and Tody, for storing multidimensional arrays.

 * The "Variable Length Array Facility" from Appendix B of Cotton and
   Tody, for storing arrays of varying length.

 * IEEE Not-A-Number (NaN) special values for signalling data dropouts
   in floating point arrays. However, other IEEE special values are not
   currently supported.

Following is the documentation that tells you how to access software from the
IDL Astronomy User's Library. Note that the binary table software is located
in the subdirectory [IDLUSER.PRO.FITS_BINTABLE]. Look at the files
AAAREADME.TXT and the LaTeX document SAMPLE.DOC in that directory for more
information. Questions on the binary table software should be directed to:

 William Thompson STARS::THOMPSON
   thompson@stars.gsfc.nasa.gov
   (301)-286-2040

 ==
==================

        THE IDL ASTRONOMY USER'S LIBRARY
        ==============================

   (January 1992)

The IDL Astronomy Users Library is a central repository for general purpose
astronomy procedures written in IDL.   The library currently contains
300+ procedures including general FITS I/O, interfaces with STSDAS and IRAF,
astronomical utilities, and photometry and spectral analysis procedures.

The library is not meant to be an integrated package, but rather is a collection of procedures from which users can pick and choose (and possibly modify) for their own use. Submitted procedures are given a cursory testing, but are basically stored in the library as submitted.   Funding for the IDL Astronomy User's Library began May 15, 1990 under the NASA Astrophysics Software Aids program.

The library is available on both a SUN SparcStation accessible via anonymous FTP, and on VAX 750 account accessible via SPAN or FTP.   The procedures are basically identical in both locations.   However, the VMS location alone includes IDL VMS Version 1 procedures, and a VAX text library version of all the procedures.   The UNIX location alone includes a tar file version of all the procedures.

The success of the IDL Astronomy User's Library will depend upon the willingness of users to give as well as take.   Submission of relevant procedures is strongly encouraged. Equally important is the notification (or correction) of programming bugs or documentation errors.

Questions about the IDL Astronomy Library can be addressed to
  Wayne Landsman   landsman@stars.gsfc.nasa.gov
                (301) - 286 - 3625

 ****
VMS Access:

DECNET users can access the [IDLUSER] account via DECNET on node UIT (15384), from the directory

  UIT::1DUA5:[IDLUSER]
 or   15384::1DUA5:[IDLUSER]

and subsequent subdirectories.

See the AAAREADME.TXT file for more information.

 ** *
UNIX Access:

Anonymous ftp is available via

ftp idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov   (128.183.57.82)
    Username: anonymous
    Password: (Put anything here)

See the README file for more information.