Subject: Re: Findfile finds no files
Posted by thompson on Fri, 05 Apr 2002 20:17:17 GMT
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Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan <shaugan@esa.nascom.nasa.gov> writes:

> Pete Riley <uk2@mac.com> writes:

>> Hi,
>>
>> I just came across a weird problem I'm not sure if it's been talked about
>> before. I'm using IDL 5.5 on linux RH 7.2. I ran some code which calls
>> findfile() last week and everything worked out fine. Today, it returns no
>> files, even with
>>
>> Print,findfile('*')
>>
>> Yet $ls shows all the files in the current directory.
>>
>> Has anyone come across this?

> I think I came across something similar a loong time ago, on various
> unix systems. The problem arises when you have extremely many (long)
> file names matching the pattern. The reason is that findfile uses
> (used?) the "ls <pattern>" command, resulting in a file-name
> expansion that causes an error with too long command lines.

> Note: If I'm correct, I think you'll get all of the files by using
> findfile with no arguments (i.e. spawning an ls command with no
> filename expansion of the command line)!

> The only way I've found around it is to write a separate find_file
> function that uses e.g. "find -name '<pattern>' -print" on unix systems.

> --
> -- --------------
> Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan
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> -- --------------

Pete:

The behavior you describe is the exact symptom of the problem that Stein Vidar

refers to. You can find Stein Vidar's find_file.pro procedure at

 ftp://sohoftp.nascom.nasa.gov/solarsoft/gen/idl/system/

I've gotten into the habit of using that instead of the built-in findfile.

William Thompson