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Subject: Re: FITS image with RA and DEC axis

Posted by [Wayne Landsman](#) on Tue, 30 Nov 2004 18:42:38 GMT

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Stefano Bianchi wrote:

- >
- > I have a simple practical task to perform.
- > I have a fits astronomical image. I just want to zoom it as I like and
- > then overplot on it x and y axis with the correct RA and DEC
- > coordinates as read from the header.

You might use the procedure IMCONTOUR in the IDL Astronomy Library. This procedure provide a contour with astronomical labeling, but by providing the /NODATA keyword you can skip the contour and just do the astronomical labeling. You should display the image using one of the display program that recognize plot coordinates such as David Fanning's TVIMAGE. For example, given a FITS image, im, and header, h, the following two lines displays the image with astronomical labeling (RA and Dec).

```
IDL> tvimage,im,/keep_aspect, position = pos
IDL> imcontour,im,h,/nodata,/Noerase,/TYPE,position = pos
```

To work with zoomed images, use the procedures hextract.pro, hrebin.pro and hcongrid.pro which will, respectively, extract a subimage, REBIN or CONGRID an image while updating the FITS header so that the astrometry remains correct.

It would certainly be nice if a lot more of this work were automated (e.g. incorporated into ATV), but there haven't been any volunteers yet ;-)

Cheers, --Wayne

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