
Subject: IDL Astronomy Library update

Posted by news.verizon.net on Wed, 27 Sep 2006 21:23:43 GMT

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To possible users of the IDL Astronomy library
(<http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov>)

I have made some updates to make this 17 year old IDL library somewhat less antiquated. In particular, note that

1. The library now requires IDL V5.5 or later. All references to VMS have been removed, and new features from V5.5 (e.g. `file_search()`, `strict_extra`) have been added.
2. About 25 "stale" routines have been deleted (though they are still available at <http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/obsolete/>) More details are available at <http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/news.txt>
3. The FITS I/O routines now mostly use the `/SWAP_IF_LITTLE_ENDIAN` keyword to `OPEN` to perform byteswapping on the fly. This should be transparent to the user, unless a mix of old and new procedures is used. For example, if the new `FITS_OPEN` is used with an old `FITS_READ` then byteswapping will (incorrectly) be performed twice.

--Wayne
