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Subject: Re: Combining rgb fits files

Posted by [Christopher Thom](#) on Fri, 06 Apr 2007 16:46:15 GMT

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Quoth Amanda:

> I have 3 seperate fits files in red, green and blue and I think I need  
> to combine them before I can do anything with them. When I look at  
> them individually, they seem blank. I tried using the rgb to tiff  
> procedure in idl but its still mostly blank with a small bit of it  
> white. I got the data from the Faulkes telescope and the star I want  
> shows up in the jpeg image. I'm trying to get light curves of variable  
> stars from fits files. I don't know what I can do with a tiff file  
> even if it did show up properly. I'm still not very good at this stuff  
> so any help would be appreciated.

In addition to the advice that others have suggested, if you are really looking at fits files, then an easier way to do a quick-look is to download and use ds9, the "standard" fits viewer used in astronomy. It is far more flexible (and easier to use) than the "tv" commands in idl.

<http://hea-www.harvard.edu/RD/ds9/>

And if you are after light curves, I see no reason that you would combine rgb (are they really rgb? Not UBV filters?) images before attempting the photometry. What is your aim in combining the images?

cheers  
chris

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