
Subject: Re: file_search: need work around for filenames with square brackets []
Posted by [rklein](#) on Mon, 15 Jun 2009 22:09:15 GMT

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On Jun 6, 7:03 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

```
> rklein writes:
>> the routines for reading FITS-files in the IDL astro library use
>> file_search() internally. Now I want to read a file name with square
>> brackets (as this "[" and " this" ]" ) in it, but file_search seems to
>> interpret the square brackets as regular expression. Is there a way to
>> escape the brackets?
>> Other suggestions?
>> I don't really want to change the library routines not rename the
>> files I have to read.
>
> Yeah, I hear you. I want to play tennis and hike in
> the mountains instead of going to work every day. :-(
>
> Have you tried a back slash as an escape character?
```

I'd rather go sailing, but could you come back from the tennis court
please and have a look at this idl journal:

```
; IDL Version 7.0, Microsoft Windows (Win32 x86 m32)
; Journal File for Administrator@FIFILSTEST
; Working directory: C:\FIFILS\Software\FlightSoftware
; Date: Mon Jun 15 21:58:08 2009
```

```
print,file_search("K:\OBSERVATIONS\archiveData
\20090403_095540\00098_153217_spiral162_@0078*")
;K:\OBSERVATIONS\archiveData
\20090403_095540\00098_153217_spiral162_@0078_[4,-4]_lw.dff
;K:\OBSERVATIONS\archiveData
\20090403_095540\00098_153217_spiral162_@0078_[4,-4]_lw.fit
;K:\OBSERVATIONS\archiveData
\20090403_095540\00098_153217_spiral162_@0078_[4,-4]_lw.rff
print,file_search("K:\OBSERVATIONS\archiveData
\20090403_095540\00098_153217_spiral162_@0078_\[4,-4]_lw.df f ")
print,file_search("K:\OBSERVATIONS\archiveData
\20090403_095540\00098_153217_spiral162_@0078_/[4,-4/]_lw.df f ")
print,file_search("K:\OBSERVATIONS\archiveData
\20090403_095540\00098_153217_spiral162_@0078_[4,-4]_lw.dff")
```

Of course, I tried escaping the brackets, but it does not work as you
can see from the above. May be I should have mentioned that I am
running on Windows
