
Subject: Re: reading images stored compressed in FITS files binary extensions
Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Thu, 08 Apr 2010 19:44:06 GMT

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On Apr 8, 2:33 pm, Jeremy Bailin <astroco...@gmail.com> wrote:

> Does anyone know what routine in the astronomy user's library (or any
> other routine) can read in an image that's stored compressed in the
> binary extension of a FITS file?

This looks like a "pixel list" (PLIO) compressed file, which can be
uncompressed with FPACK software
(<http://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/fitsio/fpack/>).

Once you have FPACK installed, you can read the file directly with
readfits.pro <http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/pro/fits/readfits.pro>)
or mrdfits.pro. These procedures use a SPAWN with a bidirectional
pipe to FPACK to stream the images into IDL variables.

Cheers, --Wayne
