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Subject: Re: Fuzzy searching of FITS header  
Posted by [penteado](#) on Wed, 22 Dec 2010 19:44:55 GMT  
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On Dec 22, 2:50 am, Paulo Penteado <pp.pente...@gmail.com> wrote:

> It is not complete (not even documented), but it already does that:  
>  
> [http://www.ppenteado.net/idl/pp\\_lib/src/pp\\_readfits\\_\\_define.pro](http://www.ppenteado.net/idl/pp_lib/src/pp_readfits__define.pro)  
>  
> I started this as an example for a class, but due to some recent needs  
> I noticed when using fits files, I intend to give it a more complete  
> functionality, with things like processing coordinates through wcs,  
> calculating wavelengths, and allowing to edit and save files.  
>  
> An example of how it works now:  
>  
> IDL> fits=pp\_readfits('test.fits')  
> % READFITS: Now reading 256 by 256 array  
> IDL> help,fits.data  
> <Expression> LONG = Array[256, 256]  
> IDL> help,fits.header  
> <Expression> STRING = Array[184]  
> IDL> help,fits.variables  
> <Expression> HASH <ID=746 NELEMENTS=181>  
> IDL> help,fits.descriptions  
> <Expression> HASH <ID=1117 NELEMENTS=181>  
> IDL> print,(fits.variables)['NAXIS']  
> 2  
> IDL> print,(fits.descriptions)['NAXIS']  
> Number of axes  
> IDL> print,fits['NAXIS']  
> NAXIS: 2  
> IDL> print,fits['NAXIS\*']  
> NAXIS2: 256  
> NAXIS: 2  
> NAXIS1: 256

Now that I thought more about this, it seems it would be better to not always return hashes from the brackets overload. If only one element is found, returning directly the value seems more natural and useful than a 1-element hash. And if none is found, returning !null seems better than an empty hash.

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