
Subject: Problem with the astron database on Mac OS X

Posted by [rklein](#) on Wed, 21 Dec 2011 01:20:14 GMT

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Hi,

I am using the database routines from the IDL Astronomy User's library: (<http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/contents.html#C3>) on Mac OS X, IDL version 7.1.

The following happens when I try to open two linked databases (the yale_bs and yale_bs_rmks databases are available at <http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/zdbase/>):

```
IDL> astrolib
% Compiled module: ASTROLIB.
% ASTROLIB: Astronomy Library system variables have been added
IDL> dbopen,'yale_bs_rmks,yale_bs'
% Compiled module: DBOPEN.
% Compiled module: ZPARCHECK.
% Compiled module: STRSPLIT.
% Compiled module: DBCLOSE.
% Compiled module: FIND_WITH_DEF.
% Compiled module: FIND_ALL_DIR.
% Compiled module: BREAK_PATH.
Attempt to subscript SBYTE with I is out of range.
IDL> dbhelp
% Compiled module: DBHELP.
% Compiled module: DB_INFO.
% Compiled module: TEXTOPEN.
% Compiled module: FILEPATH.
% Compiled module: DB_ITEM_INFO.
ENTRY   HR      CATEGORY REMARKS  SPARES

----- Indexed Items -----
HR

----- Pointer Information ----
YALE_BS_RMKS.HR ---> YALE_BS

data base contains      9188 entries
% Compiled module: TEXTCLOSE.
IDL>
```

As you can see, only one is opened despite the two being linked.

I also noticed that using "/EXTERNAL" with dbcreate does not work on Mac OS.

Does anyone has an idea what is going wrong. Is it an IDL bug on Mac OS which treats binary files unexpectedly? Or is there an invalid assumption in the database code?

Thanks and happy holidays.
Randolf
