
Subject: Re: astronomy library

Posted by [lecacheux.alain](#) on Mon, 25 Jun 2012 07:46:26 GMT

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On 25 juin, 00:23, [elliottetzka@gmail.com](#) wrote:

> On Sunday, June 24, 2012 3:49:47 AM UTC-5, alx wrote:

>> On 24 juin, 01:47, [elliottetzka@gmail.com](#) wrote:

>>> On Saturday, June 23, 2012 6:37:17 PM UTC-5, (unknown) wrote:

>>>> On Saturday, June 23, 2012 5:55:54 PM UTC-4, [elliott...@gmail.com](#) wrote:

>>>> > Does anybody have a very user friendly tutorial for installing the astronomy library for IDL? I tried the one on nasa's site but I couldn't figure some of the parts out, particularly the path.

>

>>>> > Thank you!

>

>>>> You just need to download the file: `astron.dir.tar.gz` from `http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/`. You'll need to just put this files in your `IDL_PATH`. I only know how to do this if you're using Linux or Mac OSX, if it's windows then you're on your own.

>

>>>> Once the files are in your path, start a fresh xterm (okay, the only way, but a safe way) to reset the path. Then start idl, and type "astrolib" to initialize a few system variables and be able to use all the procedures.

>

>>>> russell

>

>>> I do not understand how to put thing in the `IDL_PATH` in windows. If anybody knows that would be awesome.

>

>> The IDL Workbench allows you to interactively change the value of the
>> `IDL_PATH` system preference using the "Window > Preferences" dialog
>> (see the documentation). In exactly the same way, while using Windows
>> or *nix.

>

>> If you do not use the IDL workbench (i.e. you are using the "IDL
>> Command Line"), the best way for changing your `!PATH` variable is to
>> use `PREF_*` commands (`PREF_GET` to see your preferences, `PREF_SET` to set
>> them, `PREF_COMMIT` for doing the actual changes). Here too, this is
>> exactly the same way while using Windows or *nix.

>

>> All this is clearly explained in IDL documentation ("IDL concepts >
>> Managing IDL Paths")

>

>> Cheers,

>> alx.

>

> I am using IDL workbench. Didn't seem like there was a `!path` variable option in window/preferences. I read the documentation as well. I ended up putting the whole `astron` directory in the main idl directory, figuring this was also in the `!path`, and created a desktop shortcut to it. Do you think this should work?

!path is an IDL system "variable" (you can read it by doing IDL>
help, !path), that is NOT directly modifiable from IDL line command.
Please use the recipe given by Michael Galloy.
alain.
