Subject: Re: reading multiple FITS files from a directory
Posted by Craig Markwardt on Thu, 06 Jun 2013 19:36:52 GMT
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On Wednesday, June 5, 2013 9:07:23 PM UTC-4, wno...@gmail.com wrote:
> On Wednesday, June 5, 2013 5:47:35 PM UTC-7, wno...@gmail.com wrote:
>
>> Hi,
>
>>
>
>> Completely new to IDL here. Let's say I have a folder called 'Data' with a bunch of FITS files. How would I go about reading all the fits files from the folder and storing them in an array of structures. These are images from a CCD by the way if that helps. I can read a single file using mrdfits but is there a good way to read a bunch of files from a folder or directory? Any help would be greatly appreciated. Thanks.
>
>
>
> OK, as soon as I ask come up with something on my own. It looks like i can use findfile to put all the files in a string array. Then I could just use a for loop to read each single one. Now I'm thinking what I really would like to do is distinguish between them based on their headers. Off to study FITS some more. Feel free to ignore the post, unless of course you have some sage advice. I'm all ears. I've read through several posts and find them extremely helpful. Thanks to everyone who contributes. Hopefully I can get this stuff down well enough to actually contribute myself.

The optional third argument to MRDFITS() returns the header. For example,
```
img = MRDFITS('myfile.fits', 0, header)
```

The header is simply an array of strings. You can use FXPAR() to query the header.
```
obj = fxpar(header, 'OBJECT')
```

And decide if you want to keep it or not,
```
if obj EQ 'MY_FAVORITE_OBJECT' then begin
  ... save image data for later ...
endif
```

You will probably want to save the header data too, because it has lots of useful metadata.

Craig