Does the funpack command run at the command line (outside of IDL)?
READFITS() simply spawns to open a pipe to the funpack command:

spawn,'funpack -S ' + filename, unit=unit,/sh

On Friday, March 20, 2015 at 4:32:32 AM UTC-4, anand wrote:
> Hi,
> i want to install the cfitsio library to read compressed fits files in IDL 8.4 running on Ubuntu
14.04 64-bit version. Two programs need this library: READ_SDO as well as READFITS (only for
*.fits.fz files for the latter program). I have followed the instructions as given at this link:
> http://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/fitsio/fpack/
>
> The fun part is that while READ_SDO runs as expected, I get an error saying
> <funpack: command not found>.
>
> (Does it have something do with the shell in which the command is running? Because, while
READ_SDO runs in tcsh, the READFITS error command is preceded by the name of the shell,
which is either 'sh' or 'bash')
>
> thanking in advance,
> Anand.