Subject: "Unable to find a valid Python installation" error, a python__define error ?
Posted by   on Tue, 25 Aug 2015 11:16:27 GMT

Dear all,

I had difficulties using the Python bridge with my own winpython installation and I received the 'Unable to find a valid Python installation.' error message.

Thus after spending a lot of time in Windows innards, I just opened the python__define.pro file and found the following piece of code :

```
; Determine which Python version to load.
SPAWN, ['python', '--version'], stdout, stderr, /noshell
if (stderr[0].Contains('Python 2.7')) then begin
  DLM_LOAD, 'Python27'
endif else if (stderr[0].Contains('Python 3.4')) then begin
  DLM_LOAD, 'Python34'
endif else begin
  MESSAGE, 'Unable to find a valid Python installation.'
endelse
```

Simply by replacing stderr[0] by the correct stdout[0] I succeeded in fully using Python in IDL as well as the IDL notebook.

What is strange is that a previous anaconda installation worked perfectly well, as well as an earlier winpython 2.7. I have no explanation.

By the way, the 3.5 Python will be released in one month, maybe you should update this piece of code ?

Hope it helps those with similar issues