
Subject: findfile not recognized

Posted by [amohraz](#) on Wed, 20 Jul 2005 16:52:36 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I am using IDL version 5.6 for some image processing and particle dynamics. We've been using a bunch of algorithms routinely and all of a sudden our software has decided to not recognize the command findfile. I am trying to read images from the same folder that I'm in, and this has worked a million times before but all of a sudden won't work anymore and just won't see the files. Does anyone know what's going on and how I can fix this?

Subject: Re: findfile not recognized

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 20 Jul 2005 21:41:50 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

amohraz@gmail.com writes:

```
> When I type this command and hit return, it doesn't give me any
> messages at all. I then typed the following:
> result = findfile('c:\path\to\images\*.*', count=nf)
> and then
> print, nf
> it prints 0.
```

I'm not surprised. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Subject: Re: findfile not recognized

Posted by [amohraz](#) on Wed, 20 Jul 2005 21:56:02 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Thanks, David. But you mean you're not surprised as in IDL has a mind of its own, or you're not surprised because I'm making an obvious mistake?!

I'd appreciate any help or input you could give me.

Many thanks!

Ali

Subject: Re: findfile not recognized

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 20 Jul 2005 22:12:22 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

amohraz@gmail.com writes:

> Thanks, David. But you mean you're not surprised as in IDL has a mind
> of its own, or you're not surprised because I'm making an obvious
> mistake?!

I'm not surprised that typing the command exactly
as it was given to you didn't work. I'm pretty sure
that command was, uh, pseudo code. :-)

Show us a path to a directory where you know a file
with a specific name resides. Then show us the FindFile
command you use to search for that file, and the results
of *that* search. That might give us some clues.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Subject: Re: findfile not recognized

Posted by [amohraz](#) on Wed, 20 Jul 2005 22:33:10 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

The command I typed was:

```
f=findfile('/group2/Alid2/071805/6535j2/*.tif',count=nf)
```

and I also tried:

```
f=findfile('/group2/Alid2/071805/6535j2/6535j20001.tif',count =nf)
```

and I know there are a lot of tif files in this location, including
6535j20001.tif

Then, print, nf gives me 0.

Is this not the correct command?

Thanks,

Ali

Subject: Re: findfile not recognized

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 20 Jul 2005 22:54:55 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

amohraz@gmail.com writes:

```
> The command I typed was:
>
> f=findfile('/group2/Ali2/071805/6535j2/*.tif',count=nf)
>
> and I also tried:
>
> f=findfile('/group2/Ali2/071805/6535j2/6535j20001.tif',count =nf)
>
> and I know there are a lot of tif files in this location, including
> 6535j20001.tif
>
> Then, print, nf gives me 0.
>
> Is this not the correct command?
```

I would appear so. You're not confusing an L with a 1,
or something like that, I presume? I'm out of ideas. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Subject: Re: findfile not recognized

Posted by [amohraz](#) on Wed, 20 Jul 2005 23:03:23 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

ok thanks for your help, David. I really appreciate your time and
input.

Ali

Subject: Re: findfile not recognized
Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Wed, 20 Jul 2005 23:23:24 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

amohraz@gmail.com wrote:

```
> The command I typed was:  
>  
> f=findfile('/group2/Alf2/071805/6535j2/*.tif',count=nf)  
>  
> and I also tried:  
>  
> f=findfile('/group2/Alf2/071805/6535j2/6535j20001.tif',count =nf)  
>  
> and I know there are a lot of tif files in this location, including  
> 6535j20001.tif  
>  
> Then, print, nf gives me 0.  
>  
> Is this not the correct command?
```

Looks OK.

As David suggests, are you **sure** you have the names right? Try copying the directory and file names out of IDL into your shell console and back again to make sure.

Can you get findfile to work as you expect on **any** directory?

Perhaps findfile fails because there are **too many** files in the directory. I vaguely recall references to problems such as this on this group. I am too lazy to Google the group to confirm this, but you could give it a try.

--

Mark Hadfield "Kei puwaha te tai nei, Hoesa tahi tatou"
m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz
National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)

Subject: Re: findfile not recognized
Posted by [Haje Korth](#) on Thu, 21 Jul 2005 13:26:50 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I am completely puzzled.....

Haje

"Mark Hadfield" <m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz> wrote in message
news:dbmdd\$7c\$1@newsreader.mailgate.org...
> amohraz@gmail.com wrote:
>> The command I typed was:
>>
>> f=findfile('/group2/Al2/071805/6535j2/*.tif',count=nf)
>>
>> and I also tried:
>>
>> f=findfile('/group2/Al2/071805/6535j2/6535j20001.tif',count =nf)
>>
>> and I know there are a lot of tif files in this location, including
>> 6535j20001.tif
>>
>> Then, print, nf gives me 0.
>>
>> Is this not the correct command?
>
> Looks OK.
>
> As David suggests, are you **sure** you have the names right? Try copying
> the directory and file names out of IDL into your shell console and back
> again to make sure.
>
> Can you get findfile to work as you expect on **any** directory?
>
> Perhaps findfile fails because there are **too many** files in the
> directory. I vaguely recall references to problems such as this on this
> group. I am too lazy to Google the group to confirm this, but you could
> give it a try.
>
>
> --
> Mark Hadfield "Kei puwaha te tai nei, Hoesa tahi tatou"
> m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz
> National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)

Subject: Re: findfile not recognized
Posted by edward.s.meinel@aero on Thu, 21 Jul 2005 14:07:42 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Here's a wild guess: could it be that FINDFILE doesn't like the <space>
in the path name?

Subject: Re: findfile not recognized

Posted by [Benjamin Hornberger](#) on Thu, 21 Jul 2005 14:55:10 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

R.G. Stockwell wrote:

> <amohraz@gmail.com> wrote in message
> news:1121882624.312760.62700@g14g2000cwa.googlegroups.com...
>
>> Thanks a lot for your response, Haje. findfile just doesn't find
>> anything, and I have tried specifying the full path. It doesn't work!
>> Thanks for your suggestion on file_search. The problem is I'm using a
>> lot of routines that were written by other people and frequently use
>> findfile in them, so I would have to modify a lot of files if I were to
>> change all of them to file_search.
>> Do you have any ideas as to how to fix this?
>> Many thanks again,
>> Ali
>
>
> A couple of suggestions:
> your filename is almost certainly to blame.
>
> 0) use file_search. Seriously.
>
> 1) To be certain you have the correct path, try to read the tif file
> filename = '/group2/Ali2/071805/6535j2/6535j20001.tif'

You could use

```
filename = dialog_pickfile()
```

Then filename **must** be correct.

Benjamin

Subject: Re: findfile not recognized

Posted by [brodzik@nsidc.org](#) on Fri, 22 Jul 2005 15:21:42 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Mark Hadfield wrote:

> Perhaps findfile fails because there are **too many** files in the
> directory. I vaguely recall references to problems such as this on this
> group. I am too lazy to Google the group to confirm this, but you could
> give it a try.

I've had problems like this, when wildcards are being expanded, and end

up overloading (I think) the shell buffer's limit. I've tested for it by going out to the shell, and doing an ls on the pattern that the findfile command was returning 0 files for (wrong answer, of course, I had checked the filenames very thoroughly ;-)). The ls returns this:

```
% ls /my/very/long/path/to/lots/of/files/????/*H
/bin/ls: Argument list too long.
```

btw, it has to do with the filename wildcards ("*H")--not the "/????/",

because

```
% ls /my/very/long/path/to/lots/of/files/????/
```

returns the very long list I expected (which are more than twice as many as the *H would have limited them to.) Somebody explained the difference to me once, but I can't remember now. I suspect file_search handles things differently in the case of shell "Argument list too long" errors, because it works.

Yet another nudge in favor of changing all that code to file_search...

--Mary Jo Brodzik
