
Subject: Re: Combining rgb fits files

Posted by [Paolo Grigis](#) on Thu, 05 Apr 2007 13:41:15 GMT

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Well, whatever it is you are doing, you should check first if it works with a single color image.

If the image looks blank, either it is, or you are not scaling it correctly when viewing it. A bit of experiment with scaling should clear the issue. If `max(image)` is equal `min(image)`, then it is really blank, so you'll have to get better data first...

Also it seems to me that you are confusing FITS with tiffs...

Ciao,
Paolo

Amanda wrote:

> I have 3 separate fits files in red, green and blue and I think I need
> to combine them before I can do anything with them. When I look at
> them individually, they seem blank. I tried using the rgb to tiff
> procedure in idl but its still mostly blank with a small bit of it
> white. I got the data from the Faulkes telescope and the star I want
> shows up in the jpeg image. I'm trying to get light curves of variable
> stars from fits files. I don't know what I can do with a tiff file
> even if it did show up properly. I'm still not very good at this stuff
> so any help would be appreciated.
> Thanks.
>

Subject: Re: Combining rgb fits files

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 05 Apr 2007 14:30:44 GMT

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Amanda writes:

> I have 3 separate fits files in red, green and blue and I think I need
> to combine them before I can do anything with them. When I look at
> them individually, they seem blank. I tried using the rgb to tiff
> procedure in idl but its still mostly blank with a small bit of it
> white. I got the data from the Faulkes telescope and the star I want
> shows up in the jpeg image. I'm trying to get light curves of variable
> stars from fits files. I don't know what I can do with a tiff file
> even if it did show up properly. I'm still not very good at this stuff
> so any help would be appreciated.

Alas, three blank images stuck together will probably

result in a thick blank image. :-(

I'd download XSTRETCH and try to figure out exactly why these images are blank. Astronomy images are often perverse and the hyperbolic sine and log stretches available in XSTRETCH are helpful in extracting data from the images.

<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/xstretch.zip>

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Combining rgb fits files

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 05 Apr 2007 15:32:28 GMT

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David Fanning writes:

> I'd download XSTRETCH and try to figure out exactly
> why these images are blank. Astronomy images are
> often perverse and the hyperbolic sine and log
> stretches available in XSTRETCH are helpful in
> extracting data from the images.
>
> <http://www.dfanning.com/programs/xstretch.zip>

I probably should have linked to this page, so you have some idea what it is I'm talking about. :-)

http://www.dfanning.com/ip_tips/xstretch.html

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Combining rgb fits files

Posted by [Christopher Thom](#) on Fri, 06 Apr 2007 16:46:15 GMT

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Quoth Amanda:

> I have 3 seperate fits files in red, green and blue and I think I need
> to combine them before I can do anything with them. When I look at
> them individually, they seem blank. I tried using the rgb to tiff
> procedure in idl but its still mostly blank with a small bit of it
> white. I got the data from the Faulkes telescope and the star I want
> shows up in the jpeg image. I'm trying to get light curves of variable
> stars from fits files. I don't know what I can do with a tiff file
> even if it did show up properly. I'm still not very good at this stuff
> so any help would be appreciated.

In addition to the advice that others have suggested, if you are really looking at fits files, then an easier way to do a quick-look is to download and use ds9, the "standard" fits viewer used in astronomy. It is far more flexible (and easier to use) than the "tv" commands in idl.

<http://hea-www.harvard.edu/RD/ds9/>

And if you are after light curves, I see no reason that you would combine rgb (are they really rgb? Not UBV filters?) images before attempting the photometry. What is your aim in combining the images?

cheers
chris
