
Subject: Re: idlwave library catalog for local directory?

Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Fri, 13 Jul 2007 17:35:50 GMT

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On Thu, 05 Jul 2007 07:44:44 -0700, Mike wrote:

> I'm finally trying to switch my habits from using tags files to
> idlwave library catalogs, but I'm having trouble trying to figure out
> how to use it. Suppose I have a directory with a number of .pro files
> in it, and I'm actively developing them. With etags, I'd generate a
> tags file with idltags and just use it as any other tags file. With
> idlwave's library catalogs, the instructions say to make a catalog
> with idlwave_catalog and to load it by starting an idl shell and
> running idlwave-create-user-catalog-file.

There are two flavors of catalogs in IDLWAVE: the old outdated user-catalog (everything gets piled into one file in ~/.idlwave) and the new spiffy library catalog (little .idlwave_catalog files sprinkled like cereal sugar nuggets throughout your directories).

The latter is much easier to deal with, but does require perl, and runs outside of Emacs using the perl script idlwave_catalog you received with your IDLWAVE install.

I simply run it like this:

```
% cd /path/to/my/library  
% /path/to/idlwave_catalog MYLIB
```

where MYLIB is some unique name for your library. You can have any number of nested sub-directories there. I even have a cron job which does this for me nightly, to keep up to date. If /path/to/my/library is on your IDL_PATH, idlwave will find your catalog files and load them automagically. You'll also see the catalog name under Sources when you inquire routine info, e.g.:

Usage: Result = READFITS(filename, header, heap)

Keywords: CHECKSUM COMPRESS EXTEN_NO HBUFFER NANVALUE NO_UNSIGNED NOSCALE

NSLICE NUMROW POINTLUN SILENT STARTROW

Sources: - AstroLib [L---] /idl_library/nasa/pro/fits/readfits.pro

Those of you who use David's Coyote library, AstroLib, etc., will see a brief flash of the name by when you first load IDLWAVE, as these catalogs get loaded. If you too distribute a library, consider running idlwave_catalog on it before packaging it up, for the convenience of your users (the .idlwave_catalog files are tiny).

JD
