
Subject: Re: file_search: need work around for filenames with square brackets []

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 06 Jun 2009 14:03:35 GMT

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rklein writes:

- > the routines for reading FITS-files in the IDL astro library use
- > file_search() internally. Now I want to read a file name with square
- > brackets (as this "[" and " this"]") in it, but file_search seems to
- > interpret the square brackets as regular expression. Is there a way to
- > escape the brackets?
- > Other suggestions?
- > I don't really want to change the library routines not rename the
- > files I have to read.

Yeah, I hear you. I want to play tennis and hike in
the mountains instead of going to work every day. :-(

Have you tried a back slash as an escape character?

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: file_search: need work around for filenames with square brackets []

Posted by [rklein](#) on Mon, 15 Jun 2009 22:09:15 GMT

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On Jun 6, 7:03 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

- > rklein writes:
- >> the routines for reading FITS-files in the IDL astro library use
- >> file_search() internally. Now I want to read a file name with square
- >> brackets (as this "[" and " this"]") in it, but file_search seems to
- >> interpret the square brackets as regular expression. Is there a way to
- >> escape the brackets?
- >> Other suggestions?
- >> I don't really want to change the library routines not rename the
- >> files I have to read.
- >
- > Yeah, I hear you. I want to play tennis and hike in

> the mountains instead of going to work every day. :-(
>
> Have you tried a back slash as an escape character?

I'd rather go sailing, but could you come back from the tennis court please and have a look at this idl journal:

```
; IDL Version 7.0, Microsoft Windows (Win32 x86 m32)
; Journal File for Administrator@FIFILSTEST
; Working directory: C:\FIFILS\Software\FlightSoftware
; Date: Mon Jun 15 21:58:08 2009
```

```
print,file_search("K:\OBSERVATIONS\archiveData
\20090403_095540\00098_153217_spiral162_@0078*")
;K:\OBSERVATIONS\archiveData
\20090403_095540\00098_153217_spiral162_@0078_[4,-4]_lw.dff
;K:\OBSERVATIONS\archiveData
\20090403_095540\00098_153217_spiral162_@0078_[4,-4]_lw.fit
;K:\OBSERVATIONS\archiveData
\20090403_095540\00098_153217_spiral162_@0078_[4,-4]_lw.rff
print,file_search("K:\OBSERVATIONS\archiveData
\20090403_095540\00098_153217_spiral162_@0078_[4,-4]_lw.df f ")
print,file_search("K:\OBSERVATIONS\archiveData
\20090403_095540\00098_153217_spiral162_@0078_[4,-4/]_lw.df f ")
print,file_search("K:\OBSERVATIONS\archiveData
\20090403_095540\00098_153217_spiral162_@0078_[4,-4]_lw.dff")
```

Of course, I tried escaping the brackets, but it does not work as you can see from the above. May be I should have mentioned that I am running on Windows
