
Subject: Re: file_search: need work around for filenames with square brackets []
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 15 Jun 2009 22:23:14 GMT
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rklein writes:

```
> 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
```

Well, I don't know. I'm running on Windows, too, and
I have absolutely no problems finding these files:

```
IDL> files = file_search("c:\temp", '00098_153217*', COUNT=count)
IDL> print, count
      2
IDL> for j=0,1 do print, files[j]
C:\temp\00098_153217_spiral162_@0078_[4,-4]_lw.dff
C:\temp\00098_153217_spiral162_@0078_[4,-4]_lw.fit
```

This is Windows XP and IDL 7.0.4.

I think this might be a Windows problem, not IDL.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (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 [pgrigis](#) on Mon, 15 Jun 2009 22:25:23 GMT

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rklein wrote:

> 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

In fact, the expansion is performed by the shell (so it's not a regular expression kind of thing). So, you should use the character that the windows shell uses for escaping. I am not sure myself what this character is, but you may want to try the ^ character.

Ciao,
Paolo

Subject: Re: file_search: need work around for filenames with square brackets []
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 15 Jun 2009 22:26:24 GMT
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David Fanning writes:

> Well, I don't know. I'm running on Windows, too, and
> I have absolutely no problems finding these files:
>
> IDL> files = file_search("c:\temp", '00098_153217*', COUNT=count)
> IDL> print, count
> 2
> IDL> for j=0,1 do print, files[j]
> C:\temp\00098_153217_spiral162_@0078_[4,-4]_lw.dff
> C:\temp\00098_153217_spiral162_@0078_[4,-4]_lw.fit
>
> This is Windows XP and IDL 7.0.4.
>
> I think this might be a Windows problem, not IDL.

Or...

I notice I separated the directory from the file name
and you tried to specify both at once. Does that make
a difference?

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (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 [Heinz Stege](#) on Mon, 15 Jun 2009 23:36:33 GMT
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On Mon, 15 Jun 2009 15:09:15 -0700 (PDT), rklein wrote:

```
> 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
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>
> 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
```

The square brackets are interpreted as wildcards by file_search. You can put a single square bracket into square brackets ("[]" for "[" and "]" for "]") and file_search may do what you want.

Example:

```
print,file_search(" K:\OBSERVATIONS\archiveData\20090403_095540\00098_153217_spi
ral162_@0078_[[]4,-4[]]_lw.dff ")
```

HTH, Heinz
