
Subject: Re: Problem with IDL and fits

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 22 Jul 2009 18:21:38 GMT

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Barbara writes:

> I am workin on fits in IDL 7.1. I have the astro lib in my path,
> however, IDL keeps telling me fits_help.pro doesn't exist, even though
> I can see it and it is in the astro lib. what do I do?

What makes you think it is on your path? What happens
when you type this:

IDL> Print, File_Which('fits_help.pro')

How are you calling it? What happens when you call it?
What, specifically, is the error message?

Cheers,

David

P.S. Where is that reference to how to ask a question?
We have needed a refresher course this week. :-(

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Problem with IDL and fits

Posted by [Barbara](#) on Wed, 22 Jul 2009 18:25:55 GMT

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On Jul 22, 11:21 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Barbara writes:
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>> however, IDL keeps telling me fits_help.pro doesn't exist, even though
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> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

I know it's in the path because I can see it in the folder that I have set as my path. When i print file_which I get empty space. I can open it in the editor box, but when I try to compile, it tells me it doesn't exist. but obviously it does!

Subject: Re: Problem with IDL and fits
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 22 Jul 2009 18:33:35 GMT
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Barbara writes:

> I know it's in the path because I can see it in the folder that I have
> set as my path. When i print file_which I get empty space. I can open
> it in the editor box, but when I try to compile, it tells me it
> doesn't exist. but obviously it does!

If you don't see it with FILE_WHICH, it is **not** in your path. :-)

Download this file:

<http://www.dfanning.com/misc/printpath.pro>

And then run it like this:

IDL> printpath

You should see a list of the directories on your IDL path. I'd bet some money the astronomy library isn't there.

You could go to Window->Preferences->IDL->Paths and add it to your IDL path, if you like.

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: Problem with IDL and fits

Posted by [pfp](#) on Wed, 22 Jul 2009 20:20:00 GMT

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On Jul 22, 3:33 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Barbara writes:

>> I know it's in the path because I can see it in the folder that I have
>> set as my path. When i print file_which I get empty space. I can open
>> it in the editor box, but when I try to compile, it tells me it
>> doesn't exist. but obviously it does!

>

> If you don't see it with FILE_WHICH, it is *not* in
> your path. :-)

>

The reason it is not in the path could also be mismatching case in the file name, if it is a system where case matters (such as Linux). If the file got named "FITS_HELP.PRO", for instance, since IDL would be looking for "fits_help.pro". If that is the case, file_which ("FITS_HELP.PRO") would find it, but just calling the procedure would not.

The idlastro files come all in lower case in the tar file, but still it might have been changed in a copy from a Windows filesystem, or if the file was saved by hand (as in going to http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/pro/fits/fits_help.pro and saving the page contents from the browser).
