
Subject: read FITS header keyword using IDL Astronomy users's library

Posted by [Truong Le](#) on Mon, 01 Nov 2010 16:47:46 GMT

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All,

Does anyone know if one can use the IDL astronomy users's library to obtain just the header keyword (in other word, I want to check if a header keyword exist in the FITS file)?

I checked the library but could really see any procedure that actually does what I really wanted.

Thanks

Subject: Re: read FITS header keyword using IDL Astronomy users's library

Posted by [polystethylene](#) on Mon, 01 Nov 2010 17:08:03 GMT

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On Nov 1, 4:47 pm, Truong Le <truong...@gmail.com> wrote:

> All,

>

> Does anyone know if one can use the IDL astronomy users's library to
> obtain just the header
> keyword (in other word, I want to check if a header keyword exist in
> the FITS file)?

>

> I checked the library but could really see any procedure that actually
> does what I really wanted.

>

> Thanks

SXPART will do this for you...

i.e...

```
fits = READFITS('data',header)
result = SXPART(header,'keyword',COUNT=A)
```

I think if you then do

```
print,COUNT
```

and zero is returned, the keyword isn't present...

Subject: Re: read FITS header keyword using IDL Astronomy users's library

Posted by [Truong Le](#) on Mon, 01 Nov 2010 17:26:10 GMT

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On Nov 1, 1:08 pm, polystethylene <polystethyl...@hotmail.com> wrote:

> On Nov 1, 4:47 pm, Truong Le <truong...@gmail.com> wrote:

>

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>

> I think if you then do

>

> print,COUNT

>

> and zero is returned, the keyword isn't present...

Great, thanks!

Subject: Re: read FITS header keyword using IDL Astronomy users's library

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Mon, 01 Nov 2010 17:26:56 GMT

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On Nov 1, 1:08 pm, polystethylene <polystethyl...@hotmail.com> wrote:

> On Nov 1, 4:47 pm, Truong Le <truong...@gmail.com> wrote:

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>> does what I really wanted.
>
>> Thanks
>
> SXPART will do this for you...
>
>
Yes, and here's a little function if you want it..

```
function fits_keyword_exist,file,keyword,exten=exten  
;return 1 if specified keyword exists in FITS file header. Primary  
header  
;is searched unless EXTEN keyword is set.
```

```
hdr = headfits(file,exten=exten)  
dum = sxpar(hdr,keyword,count=count)  
return,count<1  
end
```

```
IDL> print,fits_keyword_exist('test.fits','bitpix')  
1
```

Subject: Re: read FITS header keyword using IDL Astronomy users's library
Posted by [Jeremy Bailin](#) on Tue, 02 Nov 2010 14:57:57 GMT
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On Nov 1, 1:08 pm, polystethylene <polystethyl...@hotmail.com> wrote:
> On Nov 1, 4:47 pm, Truong Le <truong...@gmail.com> wrote:
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> SXPART will do this for you...
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> i.e...
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```
> fits = READFITS('data',header)
> result = SXPARG(header,'keyword',COUNT=A)
>
> I think if you then do
>
> print,COUNT
>
> and zero is returned, the keyword isn't present...
```

Also note that if you only want to read in the header and not the rest of the file, you can use HEADFITS instead of READFITS.

-Jeremy.
