
Subject: Re: how to clear error message

Posted by [Truong Le](#) on Wed, 03 Nov 2010 21:20:12 GMT

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On Nov 3, 4:58 pm, Truong Le <truong...@gmail.com> wrote:

> All,
>
> I need to know how to clear all error message that idl generated.
>
> I am using this two lines to stop to trap my error.
>
> Help, /Last_Message, Output=theErrorMessage
> errorLength = N_ELEMENTS(theErrorMessage)
>
> However, I need to clear all the error message so that when I am
> looping to these two lines again the
> errorLength should be zero when no error message occur.
>
> Thanks

In other word, I need to know how to catch a stderr that produces from the Astronomy IDL's library.

When I try to read a bad FITS file I obtain the following error

% MRD_HREAD: Warning-Invalid characters in header

This message kept on executing and did'nt stop. How can I catch that error.

Thanks

Subject: Re: how to clear error message

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Wed, 03 Nov 2010 21:26:01 GMT

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What about trying a catch error handler? Something like this:

```
pro blah
  CATCH, error_status
  IF ( error_status NE 0 ) THEN BEGIN
    CATCH, /CANCEL
    MESSAGE, !ERROR_STATE.MSG, /CONTINUE
    RETURN
  ENDIF
```

....do other stuff....

end

If an error occurs in the "...do other stuff..." section, the error message will get printed out control will return to the caller.

You can throw your own errors in the "...do other stuff..." section by doing something like

```
IF ( ...an error condition is detected... ) THEN $  
  MESSAGE, 'this is my own error message', /NONAME, /NOPRINT
```

when you detect an error in your own code.

cheers,

paulv

Truong Le wrote:

```
> All,  
>  
> I need to know how to clear all error message that idl generated.  
>  
> I am using this two lines to stop to trap my error.  
>  
> Help, /Last_Message, Output=theErrorMessage  
>   errorLength = N_ELEMENTS(theErrorMessage)  
>  
> However, I need to clear all the error message so that when I am  
> looping to these two lines again the  
> errorLength should be zero when no error message occur.  
>  
> Thanks
```

Subject: Re: how to clear error message

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Wed, 03 Nov 2010 21:27:29 GMT

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Truong Le wrote:

```
> On Nov 3, 4:58 pm, Truong Le <truong...@gmail.com> wrote:  
> In other word, I need to know how to catch a stderr that produces from  
> the Astronomy IDL's library.  
> When I try to read a bad FITS file I obtain the following error  
>  
> % MRD_HREAD: Warning-Invalid characters in header  
>
```

> This message kept on executing and didn't stop. How can I catch that
> error.

See my other post in this thread. The CATCH error handler will, well, handle this error.

cheers,

paulv

Subject: Re: how to clear error message
Posted by [Truong Le](#) on Wed, 03 Nov 2010 21:28:48 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Nov 3, 5:26 pm, Paul van Delst <paul.vande...@noaa.gov> wrote:

> What about trying a catch error handler? Something like this:
>
> pro blah
> CATCH, error_status
> IF (error_status NE 0) THEN BEGIN
> CATCH, /CANCEL
> MESSAGE, !ERROR_STATE.MSG, /CONTINUE
> RETURN
> ENDIF
>
>do other stuff....
>
> end
>
> If an error occurs in the "....do other stuff...." section, the error message will get printed out
control will return
> to the caller.
>
> You can throw your own errors in the "....do other stuff...." section by doing something like
>
> IF (...an error condition is detected...) THEN \$
> MESSAGE, 'this is my own error message', /NONAME, /NOPRINT
>
> when you detect an error in your own code.
>
> cheers,
>
> paulv
>
> Truong Le wrote:
>> All,
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>> I need to know how to clear all error message that idl generated.

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>> I am using this two lines to stop to trap my error.
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>> Help, /Last_Message, Output=theErrorMessage
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>> However, I need to clear all the error message so that when I am
>> looping to these two lines again the
>> errorLength should be zero when no error message occur.
>
>> Thanks
>
>

I did that but it didn't work.

Thanks,

Subject: Re: how to clear error message
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 03 Nov 2010 21:45:52 GMT
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Truong Le writes:

> I did that but it didn't work.

Coyote wanted me to point out that a silent error handler is often required in this case. That way, no one is the wiser, and there is no need to fix the underlying cause of the error, either. ;-)

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: how to clear error message
Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Wed, 03 Nov 2010 23:04:27 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Nov 3, 5:20 pm, Truong Le <truong...@gmail.com> wrote:

> In other word, I need to know how to catch a stderr that produces from
> the Astronomy IDL's library.
> When I try to read a bad FITS file I obtain the following error
>
> % MRD_HREAD: Warning-Invalid characters in header
>

If you set the /SILENT keyword in the procedure that calls MRD_HREAD
(e.g. MRDFITS() or HEADFITS()) then the error messages will not be
printed.

But note that this message indicates that you are not reading a valid
FITS file. --Wayne

Subject: Re: how to clear error message

Posted by [rogass](#) on Wed, 03 Nov 2010 23:12:26 GMT

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On 3 Nov., 22:45, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Truong Le writes:
>> I did that but it didn't work.
>
> Coyote wanted me to point out that a silent error handler
> is often required in this case. That way, no one is the
> wiser, and there is no need to fix the underlying
> cause of the error, either. ;-)
>
> 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.")

Or you just add this in the first line and you will never get an error
again :-)

```
goto1:while ~n_elements(_) do goto,goto1
```

Cheers

CR

Subject: Re: how to clear error message

Posted by [ThanhThoan Nguyen](#) on Wed, 03 Nov 2010 23:43:22 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Nov 3, 7:04 pm, wlandsman <wlands...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Nov 3, 5:20 pm, Truong Le <truong...@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>> In other word, I need to know how to catch a stderr that produces from

>> the Astronomy IDL's library.

>> When I try to read a bad FITS file I obtain the following error

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>> % MRD_HREAD: Warning-Invalid characters in header

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> If you set the /SILENT keyword in the procedure that calls MRD_HREAD

> (e.g. MRDFITS() or HEADFITS()) then the error messages will not be

> printed.

>

> But note that this message indicates that you are not reading a valid

> FITS file. --Wayne

I am trying to loop over several FITS files, and I want to be able to catch

this error and move on to the next FITS file. With the silent keyword

I don't

think this will resolve my problem.

Subject: Re: how to clear error message

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Wed, 03 Nov 2010 23:59:17 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Nov 3, 7:43 pm, ThanhThoan Nguyen <marct...@gmail.com> wrote:

>>> When I try to read a bad FITS file I obtain the following error

>

>>> % MRD_HREAD: Warning-Invalid characters in header

>

> I am trying to loop over several FITS files, and I want to be able to

> catch

> this error and move on to the next FITS file. With the silent keyword

> I don't

> think this will resolve my problem.

Note that MRD_HREAD is not printing an error message, but an "informational" message.

Below is the relevant code within MRD_HREAD

```
; Check that there aren't improper null characters in strings that are
causing
; them to be truncated. Issue a warning but continue if problems are
found.
```

```
w = where(strlen(block) ne 80, Nbad)
if (Nbad GT 0) then begin
  if ~keyword_set(SILENT) then message, /INF, $
    'Warning-Invalid characters in header'
  block[w] = string(replicate(32b, 80))
endif
```

You might be able to catch the error if you change the /INFORMATIONAL to /CONTINUE.

--Wayne

Subject: Re: how to clear error message
Posted by [Truong Le](#) on Thu, 04 Nov 2010 00:58:04 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Nov 3, 7:59 pm, wlandsman <wlands...@gmail.com> wrote:
> On Nov 3, 7:43 pm, ThanhThoan Nguyen <marct...@gmail.com> wrote:
>
>>>> When I try to read a bad FITS file I obtain the following error
>
>>>> % MRD_HREAD: Warning-Invalid characters in header
>
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> if (Nbad GT 0) then begin
> if ~keyword_set(SILENT) then message, /INF, \$
> 'Warning-Invalid characters in header'

> block[w] = string(replicate(32b, 80))
> endif
>
> You might be able to catch the error if you change the /INFORMATIONAL
> to /CONTINUE.
>
> --Wayne

I am sorry but are you suggesting that I modify the MRD_HREAD
procedure?

Subject: Re: how to clear error message
Posted by [Truong Le](#) on Thu, 04 Nov 2010 01:01:35 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Nov 3, 7:12 pm, chris <rog...@googlemail.com> wrote:
> On 3 Nov., 22:45, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
>
>
>
>> Truong Le writes:
>>> I did that but it didn't work.
>
>> Coyote wanted me to point out that a silent error handler
>> is often required in this case. That way, no one is the
>> wiser, and there is no need to fix the underlying
>> cause of the error, either. ;-)
>
>> 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.")
>
> Or you just add this in the first line and you will never get an error
> again :-)
>
> goto1:while ~n_elements(_) do goto,goto1
>
> Cheers
>
> CR

could you please explain exactly what this line does?

Subject: Re: how to clear error message

Posted by [penteado](#) on Thu, 04 Nov 2010 01:05:31 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Nov 3, 11:01 pm, Truong Le <truong...@gmail.com> wrote:

```
>> goto1:while ~n_elements(_) do goto,goto1
```

```
>
```

```
>> Cheers
```

```
>
```

```
>> CR
```

```
>
```

```
> could you please explain exactly what this line does?
```

"Nothing". To be more precise, if you do not happen to have a variable named `_` defined, it is only an infinite loop which does nothing. If that variable does exist, it does nothing.

Subject: Re: how to clear error message

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 04 Nov 2010 01:22:21 GMT

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Truong Le writes:

```
> I am sorry but are you suggesting that I modify the MRD_HREAD  
> procedure?
```

It's generally not my style to state the obvious, but normally when a program issues an error message, you don't seek to turn the error message off, you try to fix the error that caused it.

Is there something about this program that you would like to share with us that makes it out of the ordinary?

I haven't used every single one of the NASA Astronomy Library routines, but I've used enough to know if an error is being issued, there is probably a pretty good reason for it.

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: how to clear error message
Posted by [Truong Le](#) on Thu, 04 Nov 2010 01:39:29 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Nov 3, 9:22 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
> Truong Le writes:
>> I am sorry but are you suggesting that I modify the MRD_HREAD
>> procedure?
>
> It's generally not my style to state the obvious,
> but normally when a program issues an error message,
> you don't seek to turn the error message off, you
> try to fix the error that caused it.
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> Is there something about this program that you would
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> ordinary?
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> I haven't used every single one of the NASA Astronomy
> Library routines, but I've used enough to know if
> an error is being issued, there is probably a pretty
> good reason for it.
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> David
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> David Fanning, Ph.D.
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David, I am not trying to suppress the error but instead I am
trying to catch that error so that I can exit my loop and read the
next FITS file.

Subject: Re: how to clear error message
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 04 Nov 2010 01:44:45 GMT
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Truong Le writes:

> David, I am not trying to suppress the error but instead I am
> trying to catch that error so that I can exit my loop and read the
> next FITS file.

Yes, and several people have suggested a CATCH error handler, which to almost everyone responding here would seem to be **exactly** what you want to use. So, what is the problem?

Is the problem that the "message" is an informational message and not really an error?

We really need more details I guess, if we are going to help in any sensible way. It doesn't help us to know something "didn't work." That's almost always an excuse for pilot error. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
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Subject: Re: how to clear error message
Posted by [Truong Le](#) on Thu, 04 Nov 2010 02:24:31 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Nov 3, 9:44 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
> Truong Le writes:
>> David, I am not trying to suppress the error but instead I am
>> trying to catch that error so that I can exit my loop and read the
>> next FITS file.
>
> Yes, and several people have suggested a CATCH error
> handler, which to almost everyone responding here
> would seem to be **exactly** what you want to use.

> So, what is the problem?
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 > Cheers,
 >
 > David
 >
 > --
 > David Fanning, Ph.D.
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 > Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:<http://www.dfanning.com/>
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okay, let's say I have 100 FITS files that I want to loop through to
 check certain
 keywords from each FITS file. To obtain the header keywords I use the
 headfits.pro
 from the Astronomy IDL's library. When one of the FITS file is badly
 formatted headfit
 spat out a run-on warning message "% MRD_HREAD: Warning-Invalid
 characters in header" and
 then eventually die. I want to be able to catch this error and move on
 reading the next
 FITS file. The problem that I am having is that I use the "Catch"
 error handler to catch
 this error as people have suggested but it doesn't work. I have read
 some of your other
 thread that talk about trapping error by using

```
files = ['file1.fits', 'file2.fits', 'file3.fits', ....]
for i=0,100 do begin
  header = headfit(files[i])
```

```
  Help, /Last_Message, Output=theErrorMessage
  errorLength = N_ELEMENTS(theErrorMessage)
```

```
  if (errorLength GT 0) then begin
    goto, jumptoendOFloop
  endif
```

```
  ....
  ....
```

```
....  
    jumptoendOfloop  
endfor
```

This will trap the error of the bad FITS file, however, I need to know how I can clear the "errors" that are in memory so that in my next loop with a good FITS file I will pass through the above example.

and thank you for all the help guys!

Subject: Re: how to clear error message
Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Thu, 04 Nov 2010 02:25:10 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Nov 3, 8:58 pm, Truong Le <truong...@gmail.com> wrote:
> On Nov 3, 7:59 pm, wlandsman <wlands...@gmail.com> wrote:
>
>
>
>
>
>
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>
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>> Below is the relevant code within MRD_HREAD
>
>> ; Check that there aren't improper null characters in strings that are
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>> found.
>
>> w = where(strlen(block) ne 80, Nbad)
>> if (Nbad GT 0) then begin
>> if ~keyword_set(SILENT) then message, /INF, \$

```

>>         'Warning-Invalid characters in header'
>>         block[w] = string(replicate(32b, 80))
>>     endif
>
>> You might be able to catch the error if you change the /INFORMATIONAL
>> to /CONTINUE.
>
>> --Wayne
>
> I am sorry but are you suggesting that I modify the MRD_HREAD
> procedure?

```

Yes, I am suggesting that you modify the MRD_HREAD procedure.

I assume this is a one-time case where for some reason you have been given some corrupted FITS files mixed with good ones. So I would make the above change to MRD_HREAD and when you are done processing these files, revert back to the original MRD_HREAD. (Better yet, I would first flag the corrupted files -- and find out how they are corrupted -- by using the fitsverify tool (http://fits.gsfc.nasa.gov/fits_verify.html).

If for some reason you expect this problem to keep occurring, then I suggest you contact the author of MRD_HREAD ;-) and ask for a new keyword -- maybe /STRICTERROR to tell MRD_HREAD to abort with an error signal at any sign of a corrupted file, rather than trying to keep reading the file, as it currently does. --Wayne

Subject: Re: how to clear error message
 Posted by [Truong Le](#) on Thu, 04 Nov 2010 02:29:38 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Nov 3, 10:24 pm, Truong Le <truong...@gmail.com> wrote:
 > On Nov 3, 9:44 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
 >
 >
 >
 >> Truong Le writes:
 >>> David, I am not trying to suppress the error but instead I am
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 >
 >> Yes, and several people have suggested a CATCH error
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 >> would seem to be **exactly** what you want to use.
 >> So, what is the problem?
 >

```

>> Is the problem that the "message" is an informational
>> message and not really an error?
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>> We really need more details I guess, if we are going
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> thread that talk about trapping error by using
>
> files = ['file1.fits', 'file2.fits', 'file3.fits', ....]
> for i=0,100 do begin
>   header = headfit(files[i])
>
>   Help, /Last_Message, Output=theErrorMessage
>   errorLength = N_ELEMENTS(theErrorMessage)
>
>   if (errorLength GT 0) then begin
>     goto, jumptoendOfloop
>   endif
>   ....
>   ....
>   ....
>   jumptoendOfloop

```

> endfor
>
> This will trap the error of the bad FITS file, however, I need to know
> how I can clear
> the "errors" that are in memory so that in my next loop with a good
> FITS file I will pass
> through the above example.
>
> and thank you for all the help guys!

incomplete thought :-) ...

I have read some of your other thread that talk about trapping error
by using

> Help, /Last_Message, Output=theErrorMessage
> errorLength = N_ELEMENTS(theErrorMessage)

I need to know how to clear the "errors" that are in memory once you
have trap the
error using the above method?

Subject: Re: how to clear error message
Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Thu, 04 Nov 2010 10:51:39 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Nov 3, 10:29 pm, Truong Le <truong...@gmail.com> wrote:
> On Nov 3, 10:24 pm, Truong Le <truong...@gmail.com> wrote:
>
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>
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```

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>>   errorLength = N_ELEMENTS(theErrorMessage)
>
>>   if (errorLength GT 0) then begin
>>     goto, jumptoendOfloop
>>   endif
>>   ....
>>   ....
>>   ....
>>   jumptoendOfloop
>> endfor

```

```

>
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>>   errorLength = N_ELEMENTS(theErrorMessage)
>
> I need to know how to clear the "errors" that are in memory once you
> have trap the
> error using the above method?

```

You can use message,/reset to clear the errors, so your code will look like this

```

Help, /Last_Message, Output=theErrorMessage
errorLength = N_ELEMENTS(theErrorMessage)
if (errorLength GT 0) then begin
    message,/reset
    goto, jumptoendOFloop
endif

```

Subject: Re: how to clear error message
 Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Thu, 04 Nov 2010 13:53:36 GMT
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Truong Le wrote:

```

> On Nov 3, 5:26 pm, Paul van Delst <paul.vande...@noaa.gov> wrote:
>> What about trying a catch error handler? Something like this:
>>
>> pro blah
>>   CATCH, error_status
>>   IF ( error_status NE 0 ) THEN BEGIN
>>     CATCH, /CANCEL
>>     MESSAGE, !ERROR_STATE.MSG, /CONTINUE
>>     RETURN
>>   ENDIF
>>

```

```
>> ....do other stuff....
>>
>> end
>>
>> If an error occurs in the "....do other stuff...." section, the error message will get printed out
control will return
>> to the caller.
>>
>> You can throw your own errors in the "....do other stuff...." section by doing something like
>>
>> IF ( ...an error condition is detected... ) THEN $
>>   MESSAGE, 'this is my own error message', /NONAME, /NOPRINT
>>
>> when you detect an error in your own code.
>>
>> cheers,
>>
>> paulv
>>
>> Truong Le wrote:
>>> All,
>>> I need to know how to clear all error message that idl generated.
>>> I am using this two lines to stop to trap my error.
>>> Help, /Last_Message, Output=theErrorMessage
>>>   errorLength = N_ELEMENTS(theErrorMessage)
>>> However, I need to clear all the error message so that when I am
>>> looping to these two lines again the
>>> errorLength should be zero when no error message occur.
>>> Thanks
>>
>
> I did that but it didn't work.
```

I tried that and it did work.

cheers,

paulv

Subject: Re: how to clear error message
Posted by [Truong Le](#) on Thu, 04 Nov 2010 18:47:14 GMT
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On Nov 3, 7:59 pm, wlandsman <wlands...@gmail.com> wrote:
> On Nov 3, 7:43 pm, ThanhThoan Nguyen <marct...@gmail.com> wrote:
>
>>>> When I try to read a bad FITS file I obtain the following error

```

>
>>>> % MRD_HREAD: Warning-Invalid characters in header
>
>> I am trying to loop over several FITS files, and I want to be able to
>> catch
>> this error and move on to the next FITS file. With the silent keyword
>> I don't
>> think this will resolve my problem.
>
> Note that MRD_HREAD is not printing an error message, but an
> "informational" message.
> Below is the relevant code within MRD_HREAD
>
> ; Check that there aren't improper null characters in strings that are
> causing
> ; them to be truncated. Issue a warning but continue if problems are
> found.
>
>     w = where(strlen(block) ne 80, Nbad)
>     if (Nbad GT 0) then begin
>         if ~keyword_set(SILENT) then message, /INF, $
>             'Warning-Invalid characters in header'
>         block[w] = string(replicate(32b, 80))
>     endif
>
> You might be able to catch the error if you change the /INFORMATIONAL
> to /CONTINUE.
>
> --Wayne

```

thank you everyone for helping me with this problem. I have to modify
 the MRD_HREAD
 by breaking inner if statement into a block and set status=-1 and
 return to get out
 of this loop; and it works!

Thank you All!
