
Subject: Problem with the astron database on Mac OS X

Posted by [rklein](#) on Wed, 21 Dec 2011 01:20:14 GMT

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Hi,

I am using the database routines from the IDL Astronomy User's library: (<http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/contents.html#C3>) on Mac OS X, IDL version 7.1.

The following happens when I try to open two linked databases (the yale_bs and yale_bs_rmks databases are available at <http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/zdbase/>):

```
IDL> astrolib
% Compiled module: ASTROLIB.
% ASTROLIB: Astronomy Library system variables have been added
IDL> dbopen,'yale_bs_rmks,yale_bs'
% Compiled module: DBOPEN.
% Compiled module: ZPARCHECK.
% Compiled module: STRSPLIT.
% Compiled module: DBCLOSE.
% Compiled module: FIND_WITH_DEF.
% Compiled module: FIND_ALL_DIR.
% Compiled module: BREAK_PATH.
Attempt to subscript SBYTE with I is out of range.
IDL> dbhelp
% Compiled module: DBHELP.
% Compiled module: DB_INFO.
% Compiled module: TEXTOPEN.
% Compiled module: FILEPATH.
% Compiled module: DB_ITEM_INFO.
ENTRY   HR      CATEGORY  REMARKS   SPARES

----- Indexed Items -----
HR

----- Pointer Information -----
YALE_BS_RMKS.HR ---> YALE_BS

data base contains      9188 entries
% Compiled module: TEXTCLOSE.
IDL>
```

As you can see, only one is opened despite the two being linked.

I also noticed that using "/EXTERNAL" with dbcreate does not work on Mac OS.

Does anyone has an idea what is going wrong. Is it an IDL bug on Mac OS which treats binary files unexpectedly? Or is there an invalid assumption in the database code?

Thanks and happy holidays.
Randolf

Subject: Re: Problem with the astron database on Mac OS X
Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Thu, 22 Dec 2011 01:40:05 GMT
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On Wednesday, December 21, 2011 4:13:34 PM UTC-5, rklein wrote:
> I update the library and the problems seems to be gone. But, let me
> investigate further.
> Randolf

I had fixed a problem with linked databases in dbprint.pro yesterday. But note the following:

1. The "linked databases" feature has not been used much, and I suspect that most of the remaining bug in the database software relate to linked databases.
 2. I suspect that you are using YALE_BS catalog as a test database. I wouldn't recommend this 20 year old catalog now for most actual science.
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Subject: Re: Problem with the astron database on Mac OS X
Posted by [rklein](#) on Thu, 22 Dec 2011 19:00:23 GMT
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On Dec 21, 5:40 pm, wlandsman <wlands...@gmail.com> wrote:
> On Wednesday, December 21, 2011 4:13:34 PM UTC-5, rklein wrote:
>> I update the library and the problems seems to be gone. But, let me
>> investigate further.
>> Randolf
>
> I had fixed a problem with linked databases in dbprint.pro yesterday. But note the following:
Thanks, I will update my routines
>
> 1. The "linked databases" feature has not been used much, and I suspect that most of the remaining bug in the database software relate to linked databases.
I'll let you know if I have more problems.
> 2. I suspect that you are using YALE_BS catalog as a test database. I wouldn't recommend this 20 year old catalog now for most actual science.
True, I only used it here so that people can easily try to reproduce my problem.

Thank you,
Randolf
