
Subject: MWRFITS not writing header

Posted by [tho.siegert](#) on Mon, 06 Jun 2016 11:28:04 GMT

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Hi,

I am trying to write a struct to a fits file and want to put a header into the header of the fits file. Writing the struct is fine but the header is not present at all after the file has been created or an extension has been added.

For the header I am reading another fits file's header and simply want to use this one. Doesn't work either.

Even the minimal example

```
a=lonarr(10,10,10)
hdr='COMMENT This is a comment line to put in the header'
mwrfits,a,'test.fits',hdr
```

does not include the head in the "test.fits" file.
I get no errors.

I cannot use writefits because the input struct is not accepted by the program.

Any suggestions?

Thomas

Subject: Re: MWRFITS not writing header

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Mon, 06 Jun 2016 15:23:55 GMT

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On Monday, June 6, 2016 at 7:28:07 AM UTC-4, Thomas Siegert wrote:

```
>
> Even the minimal example
>
> a=lonarr(10,10,10)
> hdr='COMMENT This is a comment line to put in the header'
> mwrfits,a,'test.fits',hdr
>
> does not include the head in the "test.fits" file.
```

You have to include a real FITS header not just a string. There are rules for a FITS header: for example the second line must start with BITPIX and say how many bits per pixel are in the data. You can use <http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/pro/fits/mkhdr.pro>

to create a minimal FITS header given an array

Now two caveats:

1. The documentation for MWRFITS was incorrect (though it is now fixed <http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/pro/fits/mwrfits.pro>) which is what probably what led you to think you could supply a string rather than a FITS header.

2. I am not sure why using a FITS header from another file didn't work. Note that this FITS header must be written at the same time as the structure, or else it will be put in a different FITS extension.

--Wayne
