

# Fits\_images

October 20, 2016

## 1 Working with FITS images

In this example we will be working with `.fits` images to achieve the following:

- read in image data
- apply a normalization and stretch to the image
- save the raw image as a `.png`
- plot the image with coordinate grid and labels
- align multiple `.fits` images
- create a false color image

### 1.1 Packages being used

We will be making use of the following packages:

- `astropy`: most of the heavy lifting is done here
- `matplotlib`: all of the plotting is done here
- `wcsaxes`: creates projects `matplotlib` can use for astronomy coordinate systems
- `reproject`: aligns image data based on `.fits` headers
- `numpy`: making arrays

### 1.2 Relevant documentation

Useful documentation:

- `astropy`: <http://docs.astropy.org/en/stable/wcs/>, <http://docs.astropy.org/en/stable/visualization/normalization.html>
- `matplotlib`: [http://matplotlib.org/1.5.1/api/pyplot\\_summary.html](http://matplotlib.org/1.5.1/api/pyplot_summary.html)
- `wcsaxes`: [http://wcsaxes.readthedocs.io/en/latest/overlying\\_coordinate\\_systems.html](http://wcsaxes.readthedocs.io/en/latest/overlying_coordinate_systems.html)
- `reproject`: <http://reproject.readthedocs.io/en/stable/>

```
In [1]: from astropy.visualization import stretch, interval, mpl_normalize
        from astropy.io import fits
        from astropy import wcs
        from reproject import reproject_interp
        from matplotlib import pyplot as plt
        from matplotlib.colors import ColorConverter
        import numpy as np
        import mpl_style
        %matplotlib inline
        plt.style.use(mpl_style.style1)
```

### 1.2.1 Read in the file

Read in the B-band .fits file, pull out the wcs information from the header, and get the image data:

```
In [2]: hdu_b = fits.open('M31_SAsb_b.fits')
        w = wcs.WCS(hdu_b[0].header)
        image_b = hdu_b[0].data
```

```
WARNING: VerifyWarning: Verification reported errors: [astropy.io.fits.verify]
WARNING:astropy:VerifyWarning: Verification reported errors:
WARNING: VerifyWarning: Card 'SKEW' is not FITS standard (invalid value string: '1.9329654589598E+00,
WARNING:astropy:VerifyWarning: Card 'SKEW' is not FITS standard (invalid value string: '1.9329654589598
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WARNING:astropy:FITSFixedWarning: 'datfix' made the change 'Changed '1987/09/20          ' to '1987-09-20'
```

You will see warnings from the wcs line saying that the header info being depreciated, these are old .fits files (DSS data) and you can safely ignore this.

### 1.2.2 Normalize and scale the image

To convert the raw pixel counts into an image we first need to normalize the image and than apply a stretch. For this galaxy we are going to set the normalization so the lowest 10% of pixels are 0 and the top 0.05% of pixels are 1 before applying a log stretch to the image. Since we will be applying this same code to the R- and IR-band images as well we will write this as a function.

```
In [3]: def logScaleImage(image, return_full=False):
        # create the normalization function
        reagon = interval.AsymmetricPercentileInterval(10., 99.95)
        # pull out the min and max vales for this normalization
        vmin, vmax = reagon.get_limits(image)
        # define the 'a' value for the log stretch in terms of these limits
        a = vmax/vmin - 1
        # create the stretching function
        scale = stretch.LogStretch(a=a)
        # compose the two functions and apply it to the image
        image_scaled = (scale + reagon)(image)
```

```

if return_full:
    # if 'return_full' flag is set return normalization and stretch info as well
    return image_scaled, vmin, vmax, scale
# return the final normalized and stretched image
return image_scaled

```

Ignore the `return_full` flag for now, we will come back to why that information is useful later on. Now we can use this function to process our image:

```
In [4]: image_b_scaled, vmin, vmax, scale = logScaleImage(image_b, return_full=True)
```

### 1.2.3 Save the image

We can directly save the resulting (full size) image to a `.png` using `plt.imsave`. Since this is a single band image we will use a grey scale colormap, and to keep the proper orientation of the image we will set `origin='lower'`:

```
In [ ]: plt.imsave('image_output/M31_b.png', image_b_scaled, cmap='Greys_r', origin='lower')
```

### 1.2.4 Making a publication ready plot

This is helpful if you just want to extract the image from a `.fits` file, but if you are creating a figure for a paper you will want to add axes and labels to the image as well. The heavy lifting adding axis information is taken care of by the `wcsaxes` package that extends `matplotlib`'s projection system to understand wcs. We will be applying these settings to two different plots, so we will write this bit as a function:

```

In [5]: def set_up_axes(ax):
    # extract the coordinates from the axes object
    ra = ax.coords['ra']
    dec = ax.coords['dec']
    # add axis labels
    ra.set_xlabel('RA')
    dec.set_xlabel('Dec')
    # add a coordinate grid to the image
    ax.coords.grid(color='white', alpha=0.5, linestyle='solid', lw=1.5)
    for coord in [ra, dec]:
        # set the tick formats
        coord.set_major_formatter('d.dd')
        coord.set_ticks(color='white')
        coord.display_minor_ticks(True)

```

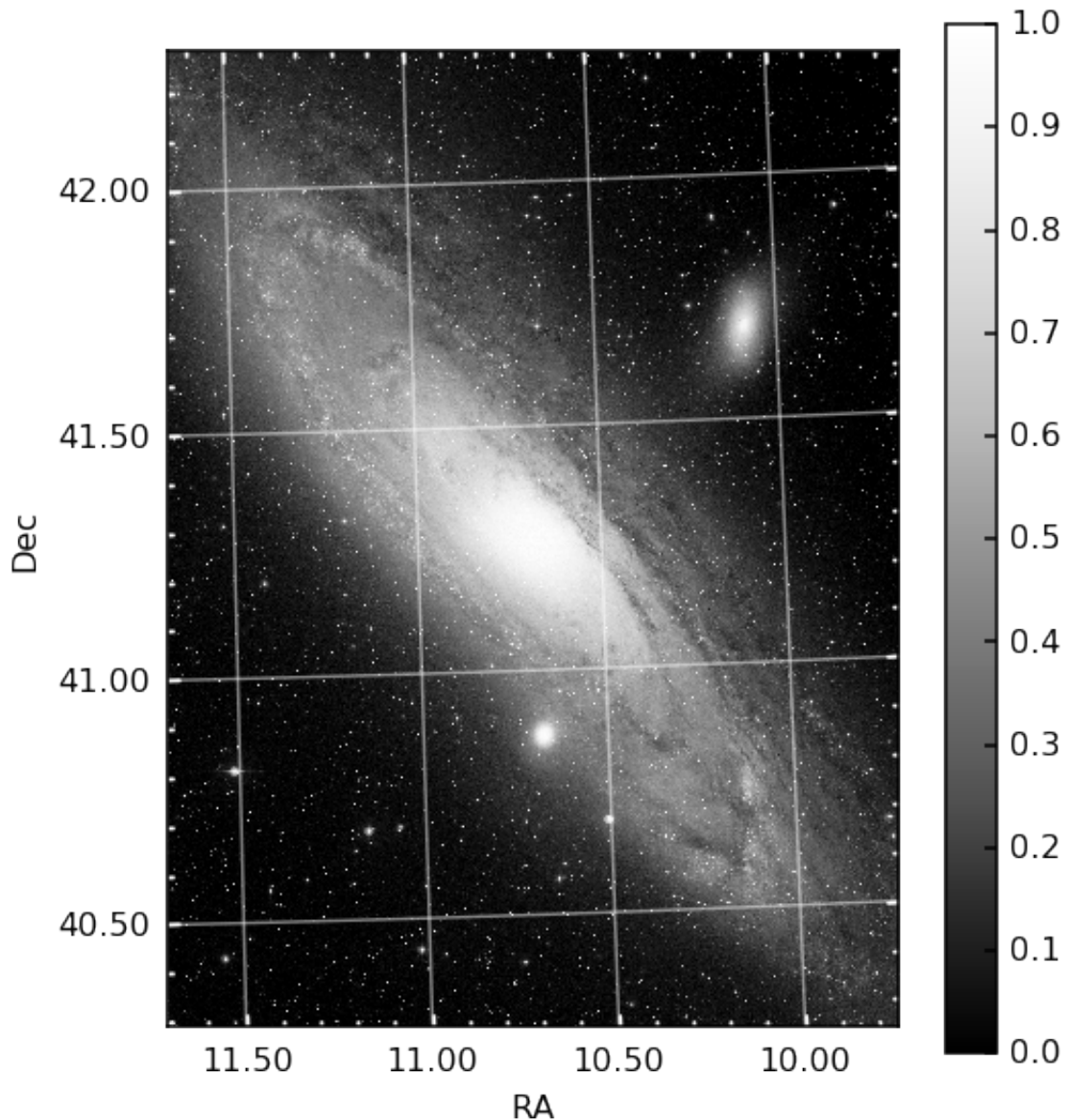
With this set up we now have to create our figure and axes then plot our image:

```

In [6]: fig1 = plt.figure(1, figsize=(8, 9))
    # create an axes with a wcs projection
    ax = fig1.add_subplot(111, projection=w)
    set_up_axes(ax)
    plt.imshow(image_b_scaled, cmap='Greys_r')
    plt.colorbar()

```

```
Out[6]: <matplotlib.colorbar.Colorbar at 0x11d739b70>
```

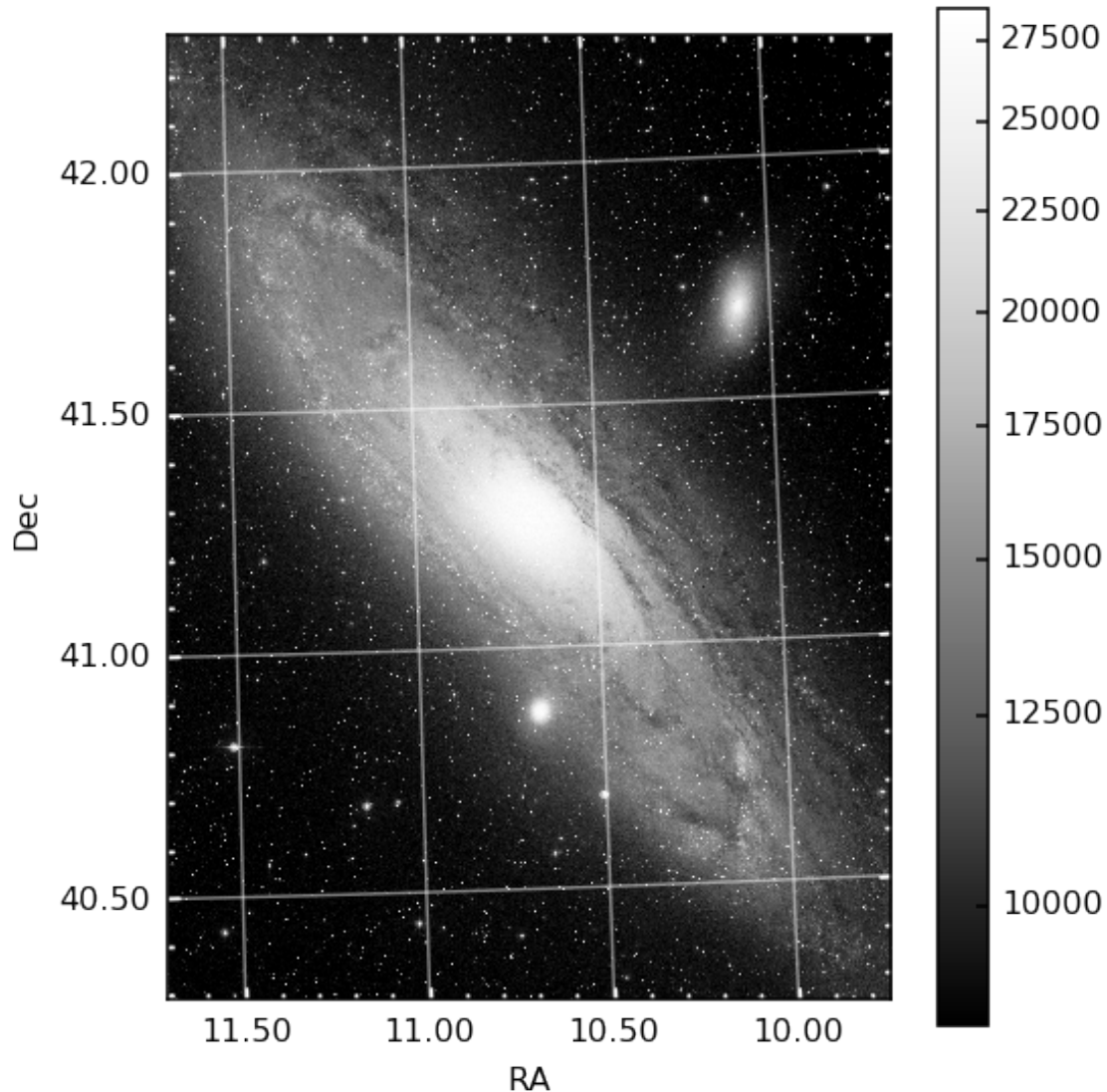


### 1.2.5 Making the colorbar mean something

Notice how the colorbar extends from 0 to 1 in the final plot, this is a result of our normalization, and is not that useful for a publication figure. To get around this we can instead create a normalization function that is passed into `plt.imshow` and use the original image:

```
In [7]: # create and normalization function matplotlib can use
        # this is what the 'return_full' flag was for
        norm = mpl_normalize.ImageNormalize(vmin=vmin, vmax=vmax, stretch=scale)
        fig2 = plt.figure(2, figsize=(8, 9))
        ax2 = fig2.add_subplot(111, projection=w)
        set_up_axes(ax2)
        plt.imshow(image_b, cmap='Greys_r', norm=norm)
        plt.colorbar()
```

Out[7]: <matplotlib.colorbar.Colorbar at 0x126d03c50>



Now the colorbar provides the pixel values instead of the normalized values!

### 1.2.6 Making a false color image

Now that we know how to make single band images, let make a false color RGB image using the B-, R-, and IR-bands. Since the other bands were taken at different times, the raw images are not likely to line up pixel-by-pixel, instead we will have to use the wcs information from the header to reproject the R- and IR-bands onto the same grid as the B-band. This will be done using the `reproject` package:

```
In [8]: hdu_r = fits.open('M31_SAsb_r.fits')
        hdu_ir = fits.open('M31_SAsb_ir.fits')

        image_r, footprint_r = reproject_interp(hdu_r[0], hdu_b[0].header)
        image_ir, footprint_ir = reproject_interp(hdu_ir[0], hdu_b[0].header)
```

WARNING: VerifyWarning: Verification reported errors: [astropy.io.fits.verify]  
 WARNING:astropy:VerifyWarning: Verification reported errors:  
 WARNING: VerifyWarning: Card 'SKEW' is not FITS standard (invalid value string: '1.9239061901523E+00,  
 WARNING:astropy:VerifyWarning: Card 'SKEW' is not FITS standard (invalid value string: '1.9239061901523  
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 WARNING: FITSFixedWarning: 'datfix' made the change 'Changed '1986/11/28' to '1986-11-28T00:00:  
 WARNING:astropy:FITSFixedWarning: 'datfix' made the change 'Changed '1986/11/28' to '1986-11-28'  
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```

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```

Again you will get warnings about out dated .fits headers, but you can ignore these. Now that the images have been reprojected we can apply the log stretch to each band:

```

In [9]: image_r_scaled = logScaleImage(image_r)
        image_ir_scaled = logScaleImage(image_ir)

```

The last thing to do is stack the 3 images into a single array and pass it into `imsave`:

```

In [ ]: RGB_image = np.zeros([image_b_scaled.shape[0], image_b_scaled.shape[1], 3])
        # R image
        RGB_image[:, :, 0] = image_ir_scaled
        # G image
        RGB_image[:, :, 1] = image_r_scaled
        # B image
        RGB_image[:, :, 2] = image_b_scaled
        # make sure NaN values are set to zero
        RGB_image[~np.isfinite(RGB_image)] = 0.0
        plt.imsave('image_output/M31_rgb.png', RGB_image)

```

You can also pass this array into `plt.imshow` to as above and place coordinates on it.

### 1.2.7 Picking the colors

If you don't want your three bands to be red, green, and blue (or if you don't have exactly three bands to begin with), you can specify the colors for each band and combine them together. Here is an example function that does this:

```
In [10]: cc = ColorConverter()
```

```
def colorize(*args, colors=[]):
    assert len(args) == len(colors), 'You need to provide the same number of colors as images'
    images = []
    for img, color in zip(args, colors):
        # convert colors to an rgb tuple, then reshape it to be 3x1x1 array
        # colors can be in any format matplotlib understands
        rgb = np.array(cc.to_rgb(color)).reshape(3, 1, 1)
        # set NaNs to 0
        img[~np.isfinite(img)] = 0.0
        # multiply the color by the image, resulting shape is 3xNxM
        images.append(rgb * img)
    base = images[0]
    # screen each layer together
    for layer in images[1:]:
        base = 1 - ((1 - base) * (1 - layer))
    # reshape into an RGB array of shape NxMx3
    return np.rollaxis(base, 0, 3)
```

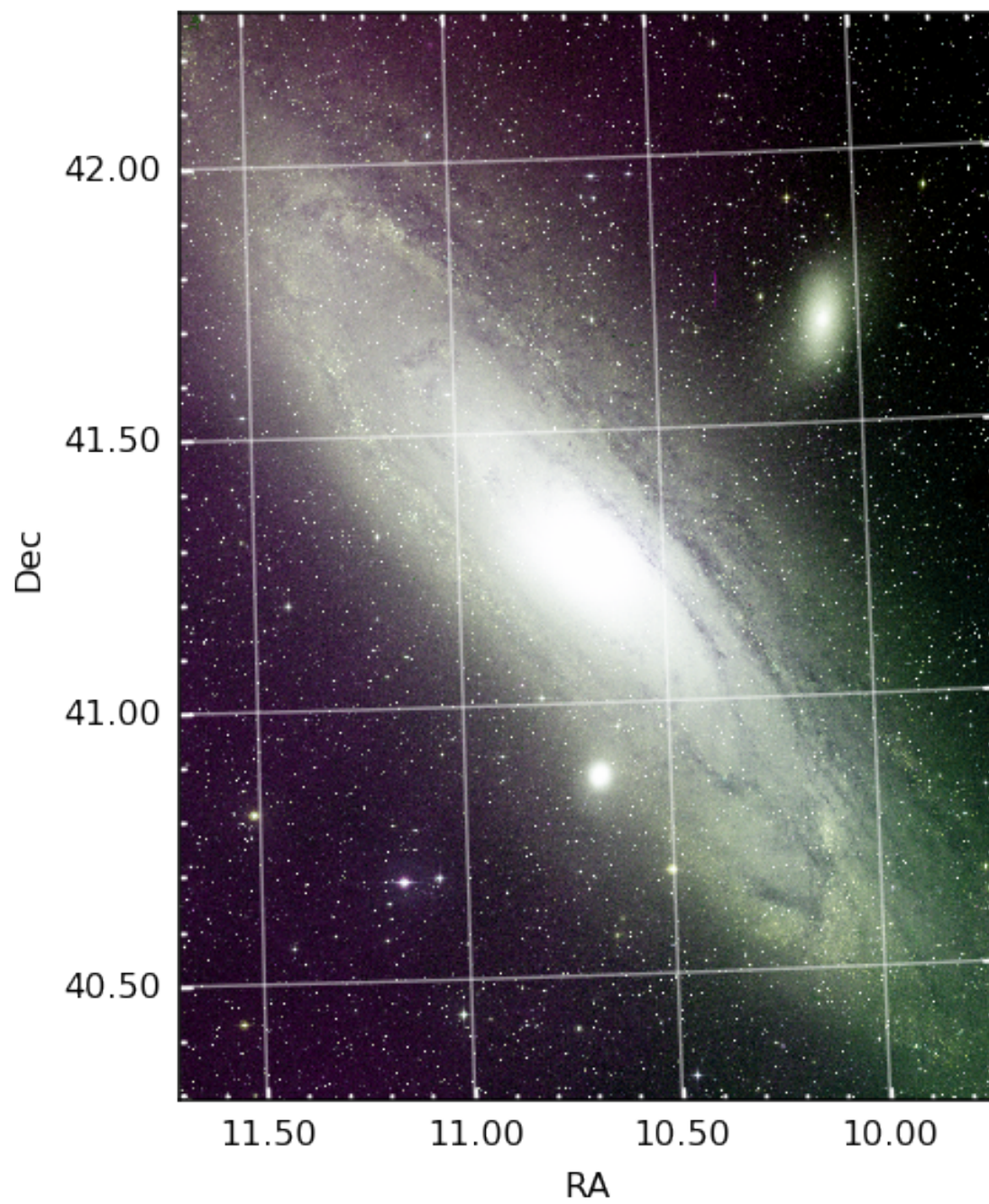
Let's use this function to create a YCM version of our image:

```
In [11]: YCM = colorize(image_b_scaled, image_r_scaled, image_ir_scaled, colors=['#ffff00', '#00ffff',
```

```
fig3 = plt.figure(3, figsize=(7, 9))
# create an axes with a wcs projection
ax = fig3.add_subplot(111, projection=w)
set_up_axes(ax)
plt.imshow(YCM)
```

```
Out[11]: <matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x126f2ce48>
```





In [ ]: