Installation of GDL

The software package *GNU Data Language* (GDL) can be downloaded from the project's homepage . However, it is recommend to use the package manager of your Linux/Mac/BSD. On Ubuntu/Debian and their derivatives just execute:

```
sudo apt-get install gnudatalanguage
```

IDL Astro Library

For the use in the lab courses the *IDL Astro Library* is also required. It can be downloaded at:

http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/homepage.html

In the next step the following directory

```
/home/user/opt/gdl-astrolib/astron/
```

should be created. Here and in the following, `user` should be replaced by the name of the corresponding user account. Afterwards the archive (*astron*) can be unpacked there. Furthermore, it is necessary to change the following lines of the file *readfits.pro* in the directory `pro`:

```
Line:                ndata = product(dims,/integer)
replace by:          ndata = dims[0]
```

Additionally create a file *fitsconvert.pro* with the following content:

```
function fitsconvert,image
if n_elements(image) eq 0 then begin
  print,'Usage: converted_image=fitsconvert,original_image'
  return,0
endif
erg=(long(image)+65536) mod 65536
return,erg
end
```

in the directory /home/user/opt/gdl-astrolib/.

Additional routines for the lab course

For the astrophysical lab course (especially for C7 and N2) the following routines are additionally required and should also be placed in /home/user/opt/gdl-astrolib/: *correl_images.pro*, *newremove.pro*, *newsrcor.pro*, *la_cosmic.pro*, *mxaddpar.pro*, and *datatype.pro* (all can be found in our SVN).

Start-up script

To use the *AstroLib*, create an additional start-up script that exports the paths of the libraries. This script can e.g. be saved as hidden file in the home directory (e.g. $HOME/.gdl_startup). If the directory `astron` and the file *fitsconvert.pro* are placed in /home/user/opt/gdl-astrolib, the start-up script would look like:

```
!PATH=!PATH + ':/usr/bin/'
!PATH=!PATH + ':/home/user/opt/gdl-astrolib/astron/pro'
!PATH=!PATH + ':/home/user/opt/gdl-astrolib'
loadct,0, ncolor=255;
!P.BACKGROUND=255;
!P.COLOR=0;
!X.STYLE=1;
!Y.STYLE=1;
!Z.STYLE=1
print,'';
print, '*******************************************';
print, '** Personal settings are loaded and active **';
print, '*******************************************';
print,'';
```

The first line contains the link to the executable gdl file. The second/third line contains the path to the *.pro* files in the `astron` directory and the file *fitsconvert.pro* (adjust paths as needed).

Is the start-up script located in the directory /home/user/, one can prepare it for the usage in the Bash shell by adding the following line

```
export GDL_STARTUP=/home/user/.gdl_startup
```

to the *.bashrc* script in the home directory.

[Final advice for the usage in the lab course](#)

For the laboratory computer *a12*, the installation should take place under the `pollux` account, while the very last step of the setup needs to be executed for the student accounts as well. Note that also for these accounts `user` musst be replace by `pollux`.