Glossary of the Tasks in the IRAF System Packages
IRAF Version 2.8

| Task | | Package | | Description |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| access | - | language | - | Test if a file exists |
| allocate | - | system | - | Allocate a device, i.e., magtape drive mta, mtb, ... |
| average | - | lists | - | Compute the mean and standard deviation of a list |
| back | - | language | - | Return to the previous directory (after a chdir) |
| beep | - | language | - | Send a beep to the terminal |
| bintxt | - | dataio | - | Convert a binary file to an IRAF text file |
| blink | - | tv | - | Blink two frames |
| blkavg | - | images | - | Block average or sum a list of images |
| blkrep | - | images | - | Block replicate a list of images |
| boxcar | - | images | - | Boxcar smooth a list of 2-D images |
| break | * | language | - | Break out of a loop |
| bye | - | language | - | Exit a task or package |
| cache | - | language | - | Cache parameter files, or print the current cache list |
| calcomp | - | plot | - | Plot metacode on a Calcomp pen plotter |
| case | * | language | - | One setting of a switch |
| cd | - | language | - | Change directory |
| chdir | - | language | - | Change directory |
| chpixtype | - | images | - | Change the pixel type of a list of images |
| cl | - | language | - | Execute commands from the standard input |
| clbye | - | language | - | A cl followed by a bye (used to save file descriptors) |
| clear | - | language | - | Clear the terminal screen |
| columns | - | lists | - | Convert multicolumn file to separate files |
| commands | - | language | - | A discussion of the syntax of IRAF commands |
| concatenate | - | system | - | Concatenate a list of files |
| contour | - | plot | - | Make a contour plot of an image |
| convolve | - | images | - | Convolve a list of 2-D images with a rectangular filter |
| copy | - | system | - | Copy a file or files (use IMCOPY for imagefiles) |
| count | - | system | - | Count the number of lines, words, characters in a text file |
| crtpict | - | plot | - | Generate greyscale plots of IRAF images |
| curfit | - | utilities | - | Fit data with Chebyshev, Legendre or spline curve |
| cursors | - | language | - | Graphics and image display cursors |
| cv | - | tv | - | Control image device, display "snapshot" |
| cvl | - | tv | - | Load image display (newer version of ’display’) |
| deallocate | - | system | - | Deallocate a previously allocated device |
| declarations | - | language | - | Parameter/variable declarations |
| default | * | language | - | The default clause of a switch |
| defpac | - | language | - | Test if a package is defined |
| defpar | - | language | - | Test if a parameter is defined |
| deftask | - | language | - | Test if a task is defined |
| delete | - | system | - | Delete a file or files (use IMDELETE to delete imagefiles) |
| detab | - | utilities | - | Replace tabs with tabs and blanks |
| devices | - | system | - | Print information on the locally available devices |
| devstatus | - | system | - | Print the status of a device (mta, mtb, ...) |

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| directory | - | system | - | List the files in a directory |
| diskspace | - | system | - | Show how much diskspace is available |
| display | - | tv | - | Load an image or image section into the display |
| dparam | - | language | - | Dump a pset as a series of task.param=value assignments |
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| edit | - | language | - | Edit a text file |
| ehistory | - | language | - | Edit history file to re-execute commands |
| else | * | language | - | Else clause of IF statement |
| entab | - | utilities | - | Replace blanks with tabs and blanks |
| envget | - | language | - | Get the string value of an environment variable |
| eparam | - | language | - | Edit parameters of a task |
| erase | - | tv | - | Erase an image frame |
| error | - | language | - | Print error code and message and abort |
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| files | - | system | - | Expand a file template into a list of files |
| fit1d | - | images | - | Fit a function to image lines or columns |
| flprcache | - | language | - | Flush the process cache |
| fmedian | - | images | - | Quantize and median filter a 2-D image or a list of images |
| fmode | - | images | - | Quantize and modal filter a 2-D image or list of images |
| for | * | language | - | C-style for loop construct |
| fprint | * | language | - | Print a line into a parameter |
| frame | - | tv | - | Select the frame to be displayed |
| fscan | * | language | - | Scan a list |
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| gauss | - | images | - | Convolve a list of 2-D images with an elliptical Gaussian |
| generic | - | softools | - | Preprocess a generic source file |
| geomap | - | images | - | Calculate a coordinate transformation |
| geotran | - | images | - | Geometrically transform a set of 2-D images |
| gflush | - | language | - | Flush any buffered graphics output |
| gkidecode | - | plot | - | Decode metacode on the standard output |
| gkidir | - | plot | - | Directory listing of metacode file |
| gkiextract | - | plot | - | Extract individual frames from metacode file |
| gkimosaic | - | plot | - | Condense metacode frames to fit on one page |
| goto | * | language | - | Goto statement |
| gradient | - | images | - | Convolve a list of 2-D images with a gradient operator |
| graph | - | plot | - | Graph one or more image sections or lists |
| gripes | - | system | - | Send suggestions, complaints, etc. to the system |
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| hafton | - | plot | - | Generate half-tone plots of an image |
| hdbexamine | - | softools | - | Examine a help database |
| head | - | system | - | Print the first few lines of a text file |
| hedit | - | images | - | Header editor |
| help | - | system | - | Print online documentation |
| hidetask | - | language | - | Make a task invisible to the user |
| history | - | language | - | Display commands previously executed |
| hselect | - | images | - | Select a subset of images satisfying a boolean expression |
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| if | * | language | - | If statement |
| imarith | - | images | - | Simple image arithmetic |
| imcombine | - | images | - | Combine images pixel-by-pixel using various algorithms |
| imcopy | - | images | - | Copy an image |
| imdebug | - | images | - | Image debugging package (currently undocumented) |
| imdelete | - | images | - | Delete a list of images |
| imdivide | - | images | - | Image division with zero checking and rescaling |

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| imgets | - | images | - | Return the value of an image parameter as a string |
| imheader | - | images | - | Print an image header |
| imhistogram | - | images | - | Compute image histogram |
| imlintran | - | images | - | Linearly transform a list of 2-D images |
| implot | - | plot | - | Plot lines and columns of images using cursors |
| imrename | - | images | - | Rename one or more images |
| imshift | - | images | - | Shift a list of 2-D images |
| imslice | - | images | - | Slice images into images of lower dimension |
| imstack | - | images | - | Stack images into a single image of higher dimension |
| imstatistics | - | images | - | Compute and print statistics for a list of images |
| imsum | - | images | - | Compute the sum, average, or median of a set of images |
| imsurfit | - | images | - | Fit a surface to a 2-D image |
| imtranspose | - | images | - | Transpose a 2-D image |
| intro | - | language | - | A brief introduction to IRAF |
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| jobs | - | language | - | Display status of background jobs |
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| keep | - | language | - | Make recent set, task, etc. declarations permanent |
| kill | - | language | - | Kill a background job |
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| laplace | - | images | - | Laplacian filter a list of 2-D images |
| lcase | - | utilities | - | Convert a file to lower case |
| lineclean | - | images | - | Replace deviant pixels in image lines |
| lintran | - | lists | - | Perform linear transformation of a list |
| listpixels | - | images | - | Convert an image section into a list of pixels |
| logging | - | language | - | Discussion of CL logging |
| logout | - | language | - | Log out of the CL |
| lparam | - | language | - | List the parameters of a task |
| lprint | - | system | - | Print a file on the line printer device |
| lroff | - | softools | - | Lroff (line-roff) text formatter |
| lumatch | - | tv | - | Match the lookup tables of two frames |
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| magnify | - | images | - | Magnify a list of 1-D or 2-D images |
| match | - | system | - | Print all lines in a file that match a pattern |
| mathfcns | - | language | - | Mathematical routines |
| median | - | images | - | Median filter a 2-D image or list of images |
| minmax | - | images | - | Compute the minimum and maximum pixel values in an image |
| mkdir | - | system | - | Create a new directory |
| mkhelpdb | - | softools | - | Make (compile) a help database |
| mkmanpage | - | softools | - | Make a manual page |
| mkpkg | - | softools | - | Make or update an object library or package |
| mkscript | - | system | - | Make a command script |
| mktags | - | softools | - | Tag all procedure declarations in a set of files |
| mktemp | - | language | - | Make a temporary (unique) file name |
| mkttydata | - | softools | - | Build cache for termcap/graphcap device entries |
| mode | - | images | - | Modal filter a 2-D image or list of images |
| monochrome | - | tv | - | Select monochrome enhancement |
| movefiles | - | system | - | Move files to a directory |
| mtexamine | - | dataio | - | Examine the structure of a magnetic tape |
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| netstatus | - | system | - | Print the status of the local network |
| news | - | system | - | Page through the system news file |
| next | * | language | - | Start next iteration of a loop |
| nsppkern | - | plot | - | Plot metacode on a NSPP (NCAR) plotter device |

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| osfn | - | language | - | Return the host system equivalent of an IRAF filename |
| package | - | language | - | Define a new package, or print the current package names |
| page | - | system | - | Page through a file |
| parameters | - | language | - | Discussion of parameter attributes |
| pathnames | - | system | - | Expand a file template into a list of OS pathnames |
| pcol | - | plot | - | Plot a column of an image |
| pcols | - | plot | - | Plot the average of a range of image columns |
| polyfit | - | utilities | - | Fit polynomial to list of X,Y data |
| prcache | - | language | - | Show process cache, or lock a process into the cache |
| print | - | language | - | Format and print a line on the standard output |
| procedure | * | language | - | Start a procedure script |
| protect | - | system | - | Protect a file from deletion |
| prow | - | plot | - | Plot a line (row) of an image |
| prows | - | plot | - | Plot the average of a range of image lines |
| pseudocolor | - | tv | - | Select pseudocolor enhancement |
| putlog | - | language | - | Put a message to the logfile |
| pvector | - | plot | - | Plot an arbitrary vector in a 2D image |
| radix | - | language | - | Encode a number in the specified radix |
| rcardimage | - | dataio | - | Convert a cardimage file into a text file |
| reblock | - | dataio | - | Copy a binary file, optionally reblocking |
| redefine | - | language | - | Redefine a task |
| references | - | system | - | Find all help database references for a given topic |
| register | - | images | - | Register a set of images |
| rename | - | system | - | Rename a file |
| reset | - | language | - | Reset the value of an environment variable |
| return | * | language | - | Return from script with an optional value |
| rewind | - | system | - | Rewind a device (magtape) |
| rfits | - | dataio | - | Convert a FITS image into an IRAF image |
| rgb | - | tv | - | Select true color mode (red, green, and blue frames) |
| rgcursor | - | lists | - | Read the graphics cursor (makes a list) |
| rimcursor | - | lists | - | Read the image display cursor (makes a list) |
| rmbin | - | softools | - | Find/delete binary files in subdirectories |
| rmfiles | - | softools | - | Find/delete files in subdirectories |
| rotate | - | images | - | Rotate and shift a list of 2-D images |
| rtar | - | softools | - | Read a TAR format archive file |
| rtextimage | - | dataio | - | Convert text files to IRAF images |
| scan | * | language | - | Scan the standard input |
| sections | - | images | - | Expand an image template on the standard output |
| service | - | language | - | Service a query from a background job |
| set | - | language | - | Set an environment variable |
| sgidecode | - | plot | - | Decode an SGI format metacode file |
| sgikern | - | plot | - | Simple graphics interface (SGI) graphics kernel |
| shiftlines | - | images | - | Shift image lines |
| show | - | language | - | Show an environment variable |
| showcap | - | plot | - | Show and decode graphcap entries |
| sleep | - | language | - | Hibernate for a specified time |
| sort | - | system | - | Sort a text file |
| split | - | utilities | - | Split a large file into smaller segments |
| spy | - | system | - | Show processor status |
| stdgraph | - | plot | - | Plot metacode on the standard graphics device |

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| stdplot | - | plot | - | Plot metacode on the standard plotter device |
| strings | - | language | - | String manipulation routines |
| stty | - | language | - | Set/show terminal characteristics |
| surface | - | plot | - | Make a surface plot of an image |
| switch | * | language | - | Multiway branch construct |
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| t2d | - | dataio | - | Fast tape to disk copy |
| table | - | lists | - | Format a list of words into a table |
| tail | - | system | - | Print the last few lines of a file |
| task | - | language | - | Define a new task |
| tee | - | system | - | Tee the standard output into a file |
| time | - | language | - | Print the current time |
| tokens | - | lists | - | Break a file up into a stream of tokens |
| translit | - | utilities | - | Replace or delete specified characters in a file |
| tv | - | images | - | Image display load and control package |
| txtbin | - | dataio | - | Convert an IRAF text file to a binary file |
| type | - | system | - | Type a text file on the standard output |
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| ucase | - | utilities | - | Convert a file to upper case |
| unique | - | lists | - | Delete redundant elements from a list |
| unlearn | - | language | - | Restore the default parameters for a task or package |
| unprotect | - | system | - | Remove delete protection from a file |
| update | - | language | - | Update a task's parameters (flush to disk) |
| urand | - | utilities | - | Uniform random number generator |
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| velvect | - | plot | - | Plot representation of a velocity field |
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| wait | - | language | - | Wait for all background jobs to complete |
| wcardimage | - | dataio | - | Convert text files to cardimage files |
| wfits | - | dataio | - | Convert an IRAF image into a FITS image |
| while | * | language | - | While loop |
| window | - | tv | - | Adjust the contrast and dc offset of the current frame |
| words | - | lists | - | Break a file up into a stream of words |
| wtar | - | softools | - | Write a TAR format archive file |
| wtextimage | - | dataio | - | Convert an IRAF image to a text file |
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| xc | - | softools | - | Compile and/or link a program |
| xyacc | - | softools | - | Build an SPP language parser |
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| zoom | - | tv | - | Zoom in on the image (change magnification) |

Note: Language package keywords are starred. To get help on a keyword enclose it in quotes.