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Subject: Re: Keyword discrimination

Posted by [Vap User](#) on Wed, 12 Aug 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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Imanol Echave <ccaeccai@sc.ehu.es> writes:

I take it that you are trying to determine whether a keyword is set in order to know whether to calculate an output variable.

There is no way to discriminate these two cases for versions < 5.1 that I am aware of. However, in IDL 5.1 there is the function `ARG_PRESENT()` which will tell you that a keyword or positional argument is present and is a named variable into which a value may be passed.

If you are working with a version < 5.1 and the data intended for output is small, there isn't much penalty in creating it whether the return variable is there or not. Otherwise, you might need a two variable scheme, one, a flag to tell the routine to calculate the output, and the other the actual output area.

Best bet, get IDL 5.1 and use `arg_present`.

FYI: `keyword_set(arg) = 0` if `arg` is undefined, or `arg` is not present in call, or `arg=0`,

> Hi people:

>

> the question is: How to discriminate between a keyword not set and a  
> keyword set to an undefined variable? `N_ELEMENTS` returns 0 in the  
> two cases.

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I don't speak for JPL, it doesn't speak for me.

Well, not all the time, at least.

William Daffer <vapuser@haifung.jpl.nasa.gov>

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