
Subject: Re: passing multiple keywords to subroutines
Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Mon, 25 Jan 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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David Ritscher wrote:

```
> It's often desirable to redefine a function, and then have this new
> function behave almost like the original function. To cook up an
> example, let's say I need a new plot function, that plots the x-axis
> as .001 units:
>
> pro myplot, x
> plot, findgen(n_elements(x) * 0.001), x
> return
> end
>
> It would now be great to be able to pass any and all possible keywords
> into this new plotting function, so I might call it as:
> myplot, x, title='test', linestyle=3
>
> In IDL, this can be done by including all possible keywords (rather
> tedious!)
```

It can be done this way, and it is tedious indeed.

Alternatively, you can exploit the keyword inheritance features offered by the `_EXTRA` keyword, e.g.

```
pro myplot, x, _extra = extra_keywords
plot, findgen(n_elements(x) * 0.001), x, _extra = extra_keywords
end
```

Now all keywords which go unrecognized by your routine MYPLOT are passed into (but not out of) the PLOT procedure, so that

```
myplot, x, title='test', linestyle=3
```

will work the way you intended. In the online help, click the Contents button, select 'Building IDL Applications', 'Defining Procedures and Programs', 'Keyword Inheritance'.

Cheers,
Liam.

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