Subject: Re: keyword issue (top 10 IDL request?)
Posted by Liam E. Gumley on Wed, 19 Jul 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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## Kenneth Mankoff wrote:

- > here is another thing with current versions of IDL that causes problems
- > and confuses me:

>

- > a keyword set to 0 should not be undefined, it should be defined as zero.
- > For example:

>

- > IDL> create globe, lat=90, long=0, ...
- > I want create\_globe to put longitude 0 at the center of the image (i.e.
- > pass "0" to map\_set). But if i don't use long= at all, then it should be
- > undefined, and the following code should run (inside create\_globe)
- > IF ( NOT KEYWORD\_SET( long ) ) THEN long = 277.5 ;;; geomagnetic pole '98

>

- > However, the above line of code runs even if i set long to "0". I have
- > been using long=0.1 as a work-around, but this is an ugly hack that others
- > might not think to use.

>

- > any ideas to fix this are welcome, and if no one has any good ideas, then
- > please add this to your top ten list, David Fanning.

I like to make a clear distinction between keywords which are used to supply a value, and keywords which represent a Boolean flag.

To check a keyword which supplies a value (as in your case), and set a default value if the keyword is undefined:

if (n elements(key value) eq 0) then key value = -999.9

To check a keyword which represents a Boolean flag:

```
if keyword_set(key_boolean) then print, 'True' if (keyword_set(key_boolean) eq 1) then print, 'True'
```

if (keyword\_set(key\_boolean) eq 0) then print, 'False'

If you wish to pass a Boolean keyword from inside your procedure/function another procedure or function:

myfunc, arg1, arg2, key=keyword\_set(key\_boolean)

Cheers, Liam.