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Subject: Re: Keyword precedence

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Fri, 25 Aug 2000 04:03:36 GMT

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"David Fanning" <davidf@dfanning.com> wrote in message  
news:MPG.140f8856ff9c2a24989bf1@news.frii.com...

```
> I'm referring, of course, to those occasions when you
> absolutely, positively DON'T want the damn color to
> be mucked around with. Then you have to go fishing
> for the COLOR keyword in the extra structure. It would
> be OK if you could do something like this:
>
>   fields = Tag_Names(extra)
>   index = Where(fields EQ 'COLOR', count)
>   IF count GT 0 THEN extra.color = 127
>
> But, of course, the user didn't use COLOR as the keyword.
> They used C, CO, COL, COLO, or some other thing, and
> you have to fish those things out as well.
```

Thanks for your comments, David. It's nice to know that somebody reads my raves.

Why not

```
pro my_plot, COLOR=color, _EXTRA=extra
  if n_elements(color) gt 0 then $
    message, /INFORM, "I'm plotting this in color index 127 whatever you
say!"
  plot, COLOR=127, _EXTRA=extra
end
```

or my preference

```
pro my_plot, COLOR=color, _EXTRA=extra
  if n_elements(color) gt 0 then $
    message, "Don't touch the friggin' COLOR!"
  plot, COLOR=127, _EXTRA=extra
end
```

```
> I think if a keyword is important, define it, and define
> a default value for it. I wouldn't change any of your fine
> code a bit, Mark.
```

I already have done in one or two places. It got clearer, in my opinion. But it's a matter of taste.

There's nothing stopping me from writing in the comments header:

COLOR: As for plot, but default is 127.

- > Actually, I think this code is working exactly the way
- > it is suppose to work. (Someone is going to have to pry
- > JD away from this thesis for the definitive answer. I'm
- > slightly confused about it too.)

At the moment when I write

```
foobar, COLOR=0, _EXTRA={color:12}
```

then if foobar is a wrapper for some other function (and foobar itself doesn't have a COLOR keyword) I have to know whether foobar uses reference or value inheritance to know what the effect will be. This can't be right!

Of course I don't actually write the above command, not unless I'm messing about trying to understand inheritance mechanisms. But that's the effect of some perfectly reasonable wrapper designs.

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Mark Hadfield  
m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz <http://katipo.niwa.cri.nz/~hadfield/>  
National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research  
PO Box 14-901, Wellington, New Zealand

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