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Subject: Re: MAKE\_ARRAY question

Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Fri, 13 Apr 2001 17:26:00 GMT

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Paul van Delst wrote:

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>
> Hi there,
>
> I want to create an array that by default should be FLOAT but can be specified as DOUBLE
> by the user as a keyword input to a function. Instead of the following:
>
> FUNCTION my_func, n_pts, double = double
>
>   IF ( KEYWORD_SET( double ) ) THEN $
>     x = MAKE_ARRAY( n_pts, /DOUBLE, /NOZERO ) $
>   ELSE $
>     x = MAKE_ARRAY( n_pts, /FLOAT, /NOZERO )
>
>   .....
>
> END
>
> can I rely on the fact that NO type keywords to MAKE_ARRAY means default FLOAT? I.e. :
>
> FUNCTION my_func, n_pts, double = double
>
>   x = MAKE_ARRAY( n_pts, DOUBLE = double, /NOZERO )
>
>   .....
>
> END
>
> The MAKE_ARRAY documentation does not specifically state that the default array created is
> a FLOAT. Does anyone know if this *is* documented anywhere so I'm not setting my function
> up (which I use *a lot*) to fall in a heap when IDL 5.5+ is released and RSI happened to
> decide a default LONG would be better?
>
> Or is there some other natty way to do this?
```

One could also do:

```
x = MAKE_ARRAY( n_pts, VALUE = 0.0, DOUBLE = double )
```

i.e value = float if double is not set, but I want to avoid the value assignation. The array can be quite large (many millions of points x 2) hence the /NOZERO. The performance hit of using the VALUE keyword is noticeable (the /NOZERO has no effect if VALUE is used).

paulv

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Paul van Delst            A little learning is a dangerous thing;  
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP       Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring;  
Ph: (301)763-8000 x7274   There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,  
Fax:(301)763-8545        And drinking largely sobers us again.  
paul.vandelst@noaa.gov            Alexander Pope.

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