
Subject: Re: keyword question

Posted by [davidf](#) on Wed, 23 May 2001 16:18:51 GMT

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Randall Skelton (rshkelto@atm.ox.ac.uk) writes:

- > I am trying to have an array *optionally* returned using a keyword
- > and I don't know the dimension of the array prior to the call. Why is
- > it that the passed keyword needs to be defined in IDL prior to being used
- > as a keyword?
- >
- > What am I doing wrong here?

You are using the wrong function to check the keyword. KEYWORD_SET should *only* be used to test keywords that have a binary function. That is, they are either on or off, true or false, 0 or 1, etc.

What you want to know is if you keyword is *defined* or not. You use N_ELEMENTS to tell you this:

```
IF N_Elements(b) EQ 0 THEN b = FltArr(10)
```

Here is an article containing more information on this topic:

http://www.dfanning.com/tips/keyword_check.html

Cheers,

David

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