Subject: Re: CASE statement

Posted by R.Bauer on Mon, 08 Oct 2001 07:19:52 GMT

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Timm Weitkamp wrote:
> Paul van Delst <paul.vandelst@noaa.gov> wrote in
messagenews:<3BBE2163.F73A162D@noaa.gov>...
>> "Pavel A. Romashkin" wrote:
>>>
>>> Timm Weitkamp wrote:
>>>> It actually also has some counterintuitive features. This one, for
>>>> example:
>>>>
      IDL> PRINT, KEYWORD_SET([0])
>>>>
>>>>
>>>
>>> Correct me if I am wrong, but the PURPOSE of KEYWORD SET is to check if
>>> a KEYWORD is SET. Settable keywords are those that you either set or
>>> don't, either /K_SET or K_SET=0. As such, they should not be set to
>>> arrays. As far as I can see, Keyword Set is a convenience function. For
>>> value passing keywords, N_elements should be used.
>>> So, it looks to me that the name of this function means exactly what it
>>> is designed for.
>>
>> Excellent point.
>> paulv
 Pavel and Paul,
>
> I mostly agree with you. But when you're programming a routine, even
 if you do use KEYWORD_SET in the strictly limited context that it
> should be, it is still possible that the user of the routine
> accidentally passes [0] (or [1]) instead of 0 (or 1) if the keyword is
> passed as an expression and not as an explicit value as in Pavel's
> example. Of course you may then blame the user, but that is of limited
> help.
> Timm
```

Dear Timm,

you can never use a one element vector by IF Statements or e.g. by the WHERE command for comparison.

a=findgen(10) print,where(a eq [1]) IDL > -1

IDL> if [1] eq [1] then print, 'aa'

% Expression must be a scalar in this context: <BYTE Array[1]>.

% Execution halted at: \$MAIN\$

Of course it's not fine that's KEYWORD_SET don't crash if it is used with [1] or [0].

But if your arguments could be arrays then it is not the best way to use KEYWORD_SET. As Pavel explained this function is only useful to distinguish between true (1) and false (0). In addition the variable for keyword_set could be a positional parameter too.

This is shown by the two excercises. The result in both tabulars must be the same. If you don't believe try the examples.

Reimar

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Reimar Bauer

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a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.h tml

http://www.fz-juelich.de/zb/text/publikation/juel3786.html

read something about linux / windows http://www.suse.de/de/news/hotnews/MS.html