Subject: Re: Keywords/Parameters and Common Blocks Posted by David Fanning on Fri, 31 Oct 2003 17:53:00 GMT

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Nuno Oliveira writes:

- > Sometimes I want use keyword variables (or parameters) of a function or
- > procedure in routines not only in the main program (of the
- > function/procedure) but also on subroutines (as often happens with routine
- > events). Intuitively I put the keyword variables on a block shared with the
- > subroutine that I also want to use those variables. But it gives an error;
- > that I can't remember now. It forces me to create new variables where I put
- > the contents of the keyword variables, and then those variables I created in
- > the program I can share with subroutines with common block.

- > Is there a way that I can achieve this without making as many attributions
- > as many keyword variables I want to share in COMMON blocks?

I get the impression here that you are writing widget programs. If so, you do NOT want to be using COMMON blocks. :-) Use an "info" or "state" structure instead. See any widget program on my web page for an example of how this is done.

Typically, if you want to collect keywords for routines, you store them in your info structure so they can be used:

```
PRO MyProgram, Color=color, Linestyle=linestyle
IF N Elements(color) EQ 0 THEN color = 'red'
IF N_Elements(linestyle) EQ 0 THEN linestyle = 1
info = { color:color, linestyle:linestyle }
Widget_Control, tlb, Set_UValue=info
etc.
END
```

Then, you can use them in an event handler:

```
PRO MyProgramEvents, event
Widget Control, event.top, Get UValue=info
MYPLOT, findgen(11), Color=info.color, LineStyle=info.linestyle
END
```

Sometimes you want to collect "extra" keywords, or keywords that you might want to use, but don't want to take the time to define. Then you might use a pointer to store these "extra" keywords:

```
PRO MyProgram, _Extra=extra
 IF N_Elements(extra) EQ 0 THEN $
extra = Ptr_New(/Allocate_Heap) ELSE $
    extra = Ptr_New(extra)
 info = { extra=extra}
 Widget_Control, tlb, Set_UValue=info
 etc.
 END
Then, use them like this:
 PRO MyProgramEvents, event
 Widget Control, event.top, Get UValue=info
 MYPLOT, findgen(11), _Extra=*info.extra
 END
Just be sure you free your pointers in the CLEANUP procedure
you will write for your widget program. :-)
Cheers.
David
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