
Subject: Re: Pass-By-Reference question.

Posted by [timrobshaw](#) on Thu, 11 Mar 2004 03:04:43 GMT

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Craig Markwardt <craigmnet@REMOVEcow.physics.wisc.edu> wrote

> Mark, are you relying on a documented feature of IDL, or are you just
> assuming that because it works, it's right? I've never assumed that
> keyword inheritance works by overriding explicit values. In fact, I
> would have assumed the exact opposite, namely that the explicit
> overrides the generic.

Craig, the online IDL help document explicitly details this behavior as a feature of passing by reference.

IDL> ? _REF_EXTRA

>> As to why Tim's example works for XRANGE & YRANGE but not NODATA, I have
>> no idea. Perhaps you are not really doing what you think you are doing.

>

> I agree, the Tim's example is truly strange.

Oh, no, the Tim knows what he's doing. ;-> I'm not going to go into what brought this up, but as for being strange, I think the example I provided is perfectly legit: You might want the default state to have a plot's axes run from -5 to 5 (forget about the specifics, just imagine that would be the routine's default state.) However, a user might want to zoom in or out and therefore would like to control the XRANGE via the keyword inheritance mechanism. Makes sense to me. Works like a charm. I'd just like to know why it doesn't work for NODATA and NOERASE.
