
Subject: Pass-By-Reference question.

Posted by [timrobshaw](#) on Wed, 10 Mar 2004 09:19:27 GMT

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Hi there,

I've been using `_REF_EXTRA` for a long time now and have come to appreciate that values of keywords sent to a module with the `_REF_EXTRA` mechanism will override any keywords that are set inside the module. Here is a great example:

```
pro whaddup, _REF_EXTRA=_extra
plot, [0], [0], /NODATA, XRANGE=[-5,5], YRANGE=[-5,5], PSYM=4,
  _EXTRA=_extra
end
```

```
IDL> whaddup
```

I see what the module asked for: axes from -5 to 5 with no datum plotted.

Now I can override the `XRANGE` and `YRANGE` keyword values by passing them by reference...

```
IDL> whaddup, XRANGE=[-1,1], YRANGE=[-1,1]
```

I see what I asked for: axes from -1 to 1.

However, if I send `NODATA` set to `ZERO`, i.e., I'd really like to see my datum this time...

```
IDL> whaddup, XRANGE=[-1,1], YRANGE=[-1,1], NODATA=0
```

I don't get what I asked for. The value for `NODATA` sent by reference does not override the value set inside the module. This is also true for the `/NOERASE` keyword.

IDL newsgroup: whaddup?
