
Subject: Re: keyword params in HISTOGRAM

Posted by [chs11](#) on Thu, 21 Nov 1996 08:00:00 GMT

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In article <329392F4.1A80@shapley.colorado.edu>,

Mark Fardal <fardal@shapley.colorado.edu> wrote:

```
> However, when I try to pass HISTOGRAM a keyword parameter that's
> undefined, I get an error message. The routine here is just a
> wrapper function for HISTOGRAM, so I want to pass a number of
> keyword parameters through to it.
>
> function histomake, array, binsize=binsize, xpoints=xpoints, $
>   input=input, min=min, max=max, omin=omin, omax=omax, reverse=reverse
>   [...stuff deleted...]
>
>   n = histogram(array, binsize=binsize, min=min, max=max, $
>     omin=omin, omax=omax, reverse=reverse)
>
>   [...stuff deleted...]
>   return
> end
```

This doesn't work because you can't assign an undefined variable to a new variable name. It has little to do with the function call but is as simple as the following erroneous code:
IDL> a = b ; where b is undefined!

Anyhow, the solution to your problem is the use the `_EXTRA` keyword. `_EXTRA` is a structure that contains all keywords that are not explicitly defined in a procedure definition. You use it as follows:

```
function histomake, array, _EXTRA = EX
n = histogram(array, _EXTRA = EX )
return
end
```

```
IDL> a =histomake(b,max=23)
```

Here, the `max` parameter is not recognized by `histomake`, so it sends it on to `histogram`.

Hope this helps.

Carl
