
Subject: Keywords and properties (in function graphics)

Posted by [Gordon Farquharson](#) on Fri, 07 Feb 2014 19:12:27 GMT

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Hi All

The IDL documentation states that keywords are applied only during the initial creation of the graphic, whereas properties can be set as keywords to the function during creation, or retrieved or changed using the "." notation after creation (e.g., [1]).

Below is a simple program to display an image using a map projection. In the first case (im1), I set all keywords and properties in the function call. In the second case (im2), I only set keywords in the function call, and set properties after the function call.

```
---
file1 = FILEPATH('Night.jpg', SUBDIRECTORY=['examples','data'])

ret = query_jpeg(file1, info)

lon = findgen(info.dimensions[0]) / info.dimensions[0] * 360. - 180.
lat = findgen(info.dimensions[1]) / info.dimensions[1] * 180. - 90.

read_jpeg, file1, data

im1 = image(data, lon, lat, DIMENSIONS=[1024,512], MARGIN=0., $
            GRID_UNITS="degrees", MAP_PROJECTION="Mollweide")

im2 = image(data, lon, lat, DIMENSIONS=[1024,512], MARGIN=0.)

im2.grid_units = "degrees"
im2.map_projection = "Mollweide"

END
---
```

im1 displays the image as I would expect (warped to the map projection). However, IDL returns the following error when the map_projection property is set for im2.

```
% Unable to retrieve map projection.
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$          16 /home/gordon/tmp/test_map.pro
```

For reference, line 16 is

```
im2.map_projection = "Mollweide"
```

Why? Specifically, why I can't change the map projection *property* after the image has been created?

Gordon

[1] <http://www.exelisvis.com/docs/image.html>
