Subject: Default values for keywords

Posted by Gordon Farquharson on Wed, 15 Apr 2015 18:21:59 GMT

I have been a long time IDL user, but it has only just occurred to me to ask whether there is a more elegant way to set default values for keyword parameters than

if n_elements(foo) then foo = !pi

I suspect there isn't, but this makes the start of most IDL routines very cluttered. It would be cool if there was a way to set the default value, like in C++ constructor calls. Maybe something like,

pro bar, AKP=akp

```
  DEFAULT_BLOCK
    apk = 1.0
  END_DEFAULT_BLOCK

  ...
```

END

I'm sure somebody could come up with a more elegant syntax.

Just a thought.

Gordon