
Subject: `_Ref_Extra`

Posted by [Martin Downing](#) on Wed, 31 Oct 2001 19:51:28 GMT

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Like many things, I came across this behaviour by accident. I have looked through some of the old discussions on `_Extra` keyword and was not sure whether this has been mentioned before so here goes and I'm sure I'll find out shortly.

Here are two test procedures, one for `_extra` and one for `_ref_extra`. The idea is they call each other until the variable call reaches 0 or is undefined

```
pro test_ex,call, _EXTRA=e
  print, "pro test_ex,call, _EXTRA=e "
  help,e,/st
  if keyword_set(call) then test_ref_ex,call-1, _ref_EXTRA=e
  return
end
pro test_ref_ex,call, _REF_EXTRA=e
  print, "pro test_ref_ex,call, _REF_EXTRA=e";, call
  help,e,/st
  if keyword_set(call) then test_ex,call-1, _EXTRA=e
  return
end
```

so here are the calls:

```
IDL> test_ex, /edge_trunc
```

```
pro test_ex,call, _EXTRA=e
```

```
** Structure <1d9bd10>, 1 tags, length=2, data length=2, refs=1:
```

```
EDGE_TRUNC INT 1
```

```
IDL> test_ref_ex, /edge_trunc
```

```
pro test_ref_ex,call, _REF_EXTRA=e
```

```
E STRING = Array[1]
```

```
IDL> test_ref_ex, 2, /edge_trunc
```

```
pro test_ref_ex,call, _REF_EXTRA=e
```

```
E STRING = Array[1]
```

```
pro test_ex,call, _EXTRA=e
```

** Structure <1d9bd10>, 1 tags, length=2, data length=2, refs=1:

EDGE_TRUNC INT 1

pro test_ref_ex,call, _REF_EXTRA=e

** Structure <1d9bd10>, 1 tags, length=2, data length=2, refs=1:

EDGE_TRUNC INT 1

IDL> test_ex, 2, /edge_trunc

pro test_ex,call, _EXTRA=e

** Structure <1d9bd10>, 1 tags, length=2, data length=2, refs=1:

EDGE_TRUNC INT 1

pro test_ref_ex,call, _REF_EXTRA=e

** Structure <1d9bd10>, 1 tags, length=2, data length=2, refs=1:

EDGE_TRUNC INT 1

pro test_ex,call, _EXTRA=e

** Structure <4850ef0>, 1 tags, length=2, data length=2, refs=1:

EDGE_TRUNC INT 1

from past discussions this is likely this is version specific, so heres the
flavor Im using:

IDL> print, !version

{ x86 Win32 Windows Microsoft Windows 5.5 Beta Jun 20 2001 32 64}

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Martin Downing,
Clinical Research Physicist,
Grampian Orthopaedic RSA Research Centre,
Woodend Hospital, Aberdeen, AB15 6LS.
Tel. 01224 556055 / 07903901612
Fax. 01224 556662

m.downing@abdn.ac.uk
