
Subject: ROUTINE_INFO problems

Posted by [Ted Cary](#) on Wed, 10 Apr 2002 22:12:48 GMT

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Mark Hadfield wrote:

> Try the ROUTINE_INFO function with keyword PARAMETERS set and examine
> the KW_ARGS tag in the structure it returns. (I found this in the docs
> & I haven't tried it myself.) Just out of curiosity, why do you want to
> do this?

Hi Mark,

Thanks for the tip. ROUTINE_INFO sounded like exactly what I want, but I played with it for a bit and it doesn't work as expected, at least not for system routines like PLOT. In fact, I can't imagine it does what anyone wants with system routines, since the PARAMETERS structure it returns is just wrong. Here is the output for the 'PLOT' procedure.

```
IDL> plotParams = ROUTINE_INFO('PLOT', /PARAMETERS)
IDL> PRINT, plotParams.num_args
      0
IDL> PRINT, plotParams.num_kw_args
      0
```

That's not right. I tried ROUTINE_INFO on PTR_FREE and even on itself, but the results were the same. Probably this is all documented or I'm just messing up, but why does ROUTINE_INFO return the PARAMETERS structure for system routines if it's going to lie about it ?

The parameter information it returns for non-system routines also could be more complete. If a routine uses keyword inheritance and passes along an _EXTRA structure to a subroutine, then the KW_ARGS field of the PARAMETERS structure returned by ROUTINE_INFO only contains the word '_EXTRA.' It would be more useful to know *all* the keywords that could be passed to the routine, including keywords of any subroutines called with _EXTRA .

I want this information because I'm toying around with an idea that will probably go nowhere. I'm trying to use the keywords as Get/Set-able properties of an object class, if that makes any sense.

So is there any way to ascertain all the keywords accepted by any IDL routine, including keywords of system routines and including keywords inherited from subroutines?

Thanks.
