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

Subject: Re: Default values for keywords
Posted by David Fanning on Wed, 15 Apr 2015 18:30:37 GMT

Gordon Farquharson writes:

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

I use SetDefaultValue from the Coyote Library. It only sets the value if
needed, can check the range of values, can set Boolean values, etc.

  http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/setdefaultvalue.pro

Cheers,

David
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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.idlcoyote.com/
Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Default values for keywords
Posted by Gordon Farquharson on Wed, 15 Apr 2015 18:36:33 GMT

On Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at 11:30:41 AM UTC-7, David Fanning wrote:

> I use SetDefaultValue from the Coyote Library. It only sets the value if
> needed, can check the range of values, can set Boolean values, etc.

How could I doubt that you would not have a solution. Very useful looking routine!

I imagine that very decade or so, some bright spark suggests this idea :-)

Written by: David W. Fanning, November 26, 2008, from suggestion by Carsten Lechte on IDL
newsgroup on this date.

Gordon