
Subject: Re: Creating Variables in Programs
Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 14 Jul 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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Riemar Bauer (r.bauer@fz-juelich.de) writes:

```
> An other way to get an undefined  
> variabel is b=n_elements(a)  
> Yes b is well defined by 0 but a is defined as undefined.  
>  
> help  
> % At $MAIN$  
> B          LONG    =      0  
> A          UNDEFINED = <Undefined>
```

Uh, this *only* happens if A is undefined to start with and is perfectly normal behavior. In fact, it is the only way to know if keywords are undefined in an IDL procedure or function:

```
IF N_Elements(keyword) EQ 0 THEN keyword = 5
```

This construction NEVER makes A undefined (or there is something seriously wrong with your version of IDL):

```
A = 5  
B = N_Elements(A)  
HELP, A, B
```

```
A INT = 5  
B LONG = 1
```

Cheers,

David

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