
Subject: Re: Is `n_params()` supposed to behave this way?
Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Mon, 23 Aug 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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Mirko Vukovic wrote:

```
> Consider the following code:
>
> pro sub1,arg1,arg2,arg3,arg4,arg5
>   message,/info,string(n_params())
>   return
> end
>
> pro sub,arg1,arg2,arg3,arg4,arg5
>   message,/info,string(n_params())
>   sub1,arg1,arg2,arg3,arg4,arg5
> end
>
> If at the command prompt I do
>
> sub,4
>
> IDL will print out
> IDL> sub,4
> % SUB:      1
> % SUB1:     5
>
> In sub1 all arguments except the first one are still undefined.
```

`n_params()` returns the number of non-keyword arguments passed (defined or not) to a procedure or function.
`n_elements(arg)` will tell you if `arg` is defined.

I think a case statement is your best bet.

Cheers,
Liam.
