
Subject: Is n_params() supposed to behave this way?

Posted by [Mirko Vukovic](#) on Mon, 23 Aug 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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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  
  
    return  
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.

The problem arose in my application where I am initializing an object whose identity is determined at run-time. Now, the number of arguments that the objects need differs from one to the other, and a single `obj_new(ObjectName,arg1,arg2,arg3,,)` statement fails if the init method for the object accepts only one argument (say).

Other than doing a case statement, is there some other way to deal with this issue?

Thanks,

Mirko

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