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Subject: Re: rebin question

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 22 Mar 2002 19:14:32 GMT

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Jonathan Joseph (jj21@cornell.edu) writes:

> You could certainly write a function that takes an arbitrary number  
> of arguments up to a limit, then use n\_params to see how many you  
> actually got. It looks like IDL only allows up to 8-dimensional  
> arrays (which is a goodly number). I only wrote the 2-d case,  
> but the n-d case should be possible.

I'm not sure "arbitrary" is the right word here.

One can write procedures and functions with a "variable"  
number of arguments, up to some arbitrary (to RSI)  
number of 100 or 200 or whatever it is. But each  
variable *must* be defined on the procedure or function  
definition line.

In the case of the function under discussion, you  
could define 8 arguments (the first would probably  
have to be a required argument, and the rest could  
be optional). But you will need some kind of CASE  
statement to call REBIN correctly:

```
CASE N_PARAMS() OF
0: Message, 'Whoops> Wrong!'
  1: A = REBIN(arg1)
  2: A = REBIN(arg1, arg2)
  ...
ENDCASE
```

Cheers,

David

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