
Subject: Re: Discover the name (at calling level) of passed parameter
Posted by [Kristian Kjaer](#) on Wed, 12 Feb 2003 11:05:46 GMT
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Well, you asked for it:

<longish_explanation>

I particularly like the "I" of IDL.

I have a function ctasrd() that will read one of my data files and return a structure containing the data.

```
IDL> a = ctasrd('dagq1234')
```

```
IDL> b = ctasrd('dagq1235')
```

```
IDL> c = ctasrd('dagq1236')
```

This will read the files 'dagq1234.dat' etc. and the resulting structures, stored in a, b and c, in fact contain a tag with the name and path of the data file (as Pavel suggests).

Now as I work with a,b,c, and many other data structures I'd have to either remember which was which, or, to remind myself, do

```
IDL> print,a.text[0]
```

I prefer

```
IDL> dagq1234 = ctasrd('dagq1234')
```

, except that here I have twice to type the name dagq1234 (that is meaningfull to me because the log book refers to it.)

But now I can change the syntax so I only need to type the name once:

```
IDL> tasget,dagq1234
```

Hooray!

I also like that IDL is command-based and I journal everything so that I can easily replay commands or extract a useful batch file (or the sceleton of a new procedure) from the journal file.

Other people like GUIs, and indeed, sometimes GUIs can replace complex typing.

I (almost) have a GUI, XsetP (widget programming by Frank Bringezu), and a command-line equivalent, SetP, that will create or modify a fit parameter structure as used by Craig Markwardt's lsfit machines mpfit.pro and mpfitfun.pro

Let's say p40 is a fit parameter structure that I want to modify before letting mpfitfun loose again.

IDL> XSetP ,p40 ; and click and type in the GUI

The trouble with the GUI is that the IDL log window and journal file will not reflect the changes made inside the GUI. If I want to do the same thing again the next day I have to click and type similarly in the GUI, and I don't have a record of what was done.

But now I can make it so that, on exit, XSetP echoes to the log window and to the journal file the equivalent command:

```
SetP ,ParName='PkHeight_0' ,Value=2500 ,/unFIXed ,p40 ; , say
```

, complete with the correct variable name (p40).

Hooray again!

</longish_explanation>

- Kristian

Mark Hadfield wrote:

> Just curious: Why?

> Kristian.Kjaer@Risoe.DK wrote in message

> news:3E48F599.E7B18502@Risoe.DK...

>> I sometimes find myself wanting to know the name of a passed

>> parameter: At the called procedure level I need to know the name

>> that the parameter had at the calling level.