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Subject: Re: How to see if variable is defined?  
Posted by [zawodny](#) on Thu, 26 Jan 1995 20:28:27 GMT  
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In article <3g8n7i\$ghv@sun2.ruf.uni-freiburg.de> ps@kis.uni-freiburg.de (Peter Suetterlin) writes:  
> Mike Schienle (rep2857@sbsun0010.ssrc.hac.com) wrote:  
> : IDL> print, var  
> : % PRINT: Variable is undefined: VAR.  
> : % Execution halted at \$MAIN\$ (PRINT).  
> : IDL> print, size(var)  
> : 0 0 1  
>  
> : The first parameter will be a zero if var is undefined.  
>  
> !!NO  
>  
> that's wrong:  
> IDL> i=1  
> IDL> print,size(i)  
> 0 2 1  
> IDL>  
>  
> The \*second\* parameter has to be zero (exactly s(s(0)+1, which defines  
> the type of the variable)

I've noticed that this thread has survived longer than I would anticipate from the subject. I have not been following it so, this may have been pointed out already.

I use the following:

if(n\_elements(var) eq 0) then print,'Variable is undefined'

This is much easier to remember and is less code than using SIZE.

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