
Subject: Bug in N_PARAMS?

Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Mon, 24 Nov 2008 19:31:37 GMT

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I have been having some very odd problems with the N_PARAMS function lately.

Here is a simple example with a main program and a function.

```
PRO N_PARAMS_MAIN, a, b
COMPILE_OPT IDL2
PRINT, 'N_PARAMS_MAIN - Number of parameters : ', N_PARAMS()
HELP, a, b
value = N_PARAMS_BUG(a, b)
END
```

```
FUNCTION N_PARAMS_BUG, a, b
COMPILE_OPT IDL2
PRINT, 'N_PARAMS_BUG - Number of parameters : ', N_PARAMS()
HELP, a, b
RETURN, 0
END
```

Here is the output from a new IDL session:

```
stretch> idl
IDL Version 6.4.1, Mac OS X (darwin i386 m32). (c) 2007, ITT Visual Information Solutions
```

```
IDL> N_PARAMS_MAIN, 13
% Compiled module: N_PARAMS_MAIN.
N_PARAMS_MAIN - Number of parameters :      1
A      LONG      =      13
B      UNDEFINED = <Undefined>
% Compiled module: N_PARAMS_BUG.
N_PARAMS_BUG - Number of parameters :      2  <-- returns 2, but b is undefined
A      LONG      =      13
B      UNDEFINED = <Undefined>
```

In the main program N_PARAMS_MAIN, N_PARAMS correctly returns the number of defined arguments (one).

In the function N_PARAMS_BUG, the argument count is incorrectly given as two.

If I call the function N_PARAMS_BUG from the command line, it works correctly.

```
IDL> PRINT, N_PARAMS_BUG(10)
N_PARAMS_BUG - Number of parameters :      1
A      LONG      =      10
B      UNDEFINED = <Undefined>
      0
```

Am I missing something obvious here?

Ken
