
Subject: Re: Bug in N_PARAMS?

Posted by [Jeremy Bailin](#) on Mon, 01 Dec 2008 14:11:07 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Nov 30, 5:06 pm, Mark <mark.h...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Nov 28, 11:02 pm, Reimar Bauer <R.Ba...@fz-juelich.de> wrote:

>

>> The usecase for me is to call a helper routine if not enough parameters
>> were used.

>

>> e.g.

>

```
>> if n_params() lt 2 then begin  
>>     MESSAGE,call_help(),/cont  
>>     return  
>> endif
```

>

> Sure, but even if 2 parameters were supplied, you still don't know if
> the variables they're associated with are defined. If you're going to
> check for that anyway, with N_ELEMENTS, the N_PARAMS check is
> redundant.

>

> Eg.

>

> pro mypro, a, b

>

```
> if n_elements(a) eq 0 || n_elements(b) eq 0 then begin  
>     MESSAGE,call_help(),/cont  
>     return  
> endif
```

>

> end

Except that there are valid reasons for passing in an undefined variable, if it's used for output. So it's perfectly legitimate to want to know whether it was passed in without caring whether it is defined.

-Jeremy.
