
Subject: Re: How to judge a Function's parameters ?
Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Thu, 07 May 2009 22:02:30 GMT
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Hu wrote:

```
> Hi, folks,  
>  
> I created a function 'RectArea' to calculate the rectangle area, and  
> two parameters, side a and b, are needed when the function is  
> employed.  
>  
> I want to do something like this: if a and b are omitted by the user,  
> then the function will use the default values.  
>  
> But, How can I judge that the parameters are omitted?  
>  
> Thanks  
>  
> function RectArea,a,b  
> return,a*b  
> end
```

Use N_ELEMENTS to determine if a particular parameter is omitted. I usually do something like the following:

```
function RectArea, a, b  
  compile_opt strictarr  
  
  _a = n_elements(a) eq 0L ? 1.0 : a  
  _b = n_elements(b) eq 0L ? 1.0 : b  
  
  return, _a * _b  
end
```

I don't do:

```
if (n_elements(a) eq 0L) then a = 1.0
```

because I don't want change an input variable from the user.

Mike

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