
Subject: Re: How to judge a Function's parameters ?

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Thu, 07 May 2009 22:01:30 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

```
function RectArea,a,b
```

```
  if ( n_elements(a) eq 0 ) then a = 1 ; or whatever default value
```

```
  if ( n_elements(b) eq 0 ) then b = 1 ; or whatever default value
```

```
  return,a*b
```

```
end
```

Although, I would rather an error be thrown if required arguments are missing.

cheers,

paulv
