
Subject: Re: How to judge a Function's parameters ?
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Thu, 07 May 2009 22:32:32 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

mgalloy wrote:

> 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.

Excellent point.

Being a Fortran programmer, I rely on the INTENT(IN) attribute for input-only dummy arguments in my Fortran code. I'm much lazier in my IDL dabbings.

To the OP: do what Mike says. :o)

cheers,

paulv
