
Subject: Re: Is n_params() supposed to behave this way?
Posted by [Mirko Vukovic](#) on Mon, 23 Aug 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <37C1B09A.704A7DC@ssec.wisc.edu>,
Liam Gumley <Liam.Gumley@ssec.wisc.edu> wrote:
> Mirko Vukovic wrote:
>
>> Consider the following code:
>>
>> pro sub1,arg1,arg2,arg3,arg4,arg5
>> message,/info,string(n_params())
>> return
>> end
>>
>> pro sub,arg1,arg2,arg3,arg4,arg5
>> message,/info,string(n_params())
>> sub1,arg1,arg2,arg3,arg4,arg5
>> end
>>
>> If at the command prompt I do
>>
>> sub,4
>>
>> IDL will print out
>> IDL> sub,4
>> % SUB: 1
>> % SUB1: 5
>>
>> In sub1 all arguments except the first one are still undefined.
>
> n_params() returns the number of non-keyword arguments passed (defined
> or not) to a procedure or function.
> n_elements(arg) will tell you if arg is defined.
>
> I think a case statement is your best bet.
>
> Cheers,
> Liam.
>
Ouch.

Thanks.

Mirko
>

Subject: Re: Is `n_params()` supposed to behave this way?
Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Mon, 23 Aug 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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Mirko Vukovic wrote:

```
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>
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> If at the command prompt I do
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> In sub1 all arguments except the first one are still undefined.
```

`n_params()` returns the number of non-keyword arguments passed (defined or not) to a procedure or function.

`n_elements(arg)` will tell you if `arg` is defined.

I think a case statement is your best bet.

Cheers,
Liam.

Subject: Re: Is `n_params()` supposed to behave this way?
Posted by [mallors](#) on Mon, 23 Aug 1999 07:00:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

In article <7ps7r7\$19p\$1@nnrp1.deja.com>,
Mirko Vukovic <mvukovic@taz.telusa.com> writes:
> Consider the following code:
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>
> message,/info,string(n_params())
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> message,/info,string(n_params())
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> sub1,arg1,arg2,arg3,arg4,arg5
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> return
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> If at the command prompt I do
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> IDL> sub,4
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> In sub1 all arguments except the first one are still undefined.

Interesting, I ran across this same behavior today. I
fixed my code by switching to N_ELEMENTS instead of
N_PARAMS. The code is a little messier, but it works :-)

The N_PARAMS documentation is not totally clear, but
I suppose it passes for being correct:

"This function always returns the number of parameters
that were used in calling the procedure or function
from which N_PARAMS is called."

Add the caveat "even if those parameters are undefined" !

-bob

--

~~~~~  
Robert S. Mallozzi

256-544-0887

Mail Code SD 50

Work: <http://gammaray.msfc.nasa.gov/> Marshall Space Flight Center

Play: <http://cspar.uah.edu/~mallozzir/> Huntsville, AL 35812  
~~~~~
