
Subject: Re: A New error msg, for me: % Variable is undefined: <UNDEFINED>
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 29 Mar 2006 22:27:57 GMT
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Ed Hyer writes:

```
> Hello brilliant people,
>
> This is "found debugging": either you've had this happen, or you
> haven't.
>
> Here is the exerpt from the command line:
>
> IDL> lc=hs05_g12_glccv20_flambe
> IDL> gf=hs05_g12.fflag_a
> IDL> gs=hs05_g12.fsize_a
> IDL> test=flambe_lc2totalflux(lc,goesflag=gf,goessize=gs)
> % Variable is undefined: <UNDEFINED>.
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$
>
> Here is the declaration line of the function, which compiles without
> error:
>
> function flambe_lc2totalflux,hslc,goesflag=goesflag,goessize=goessize ,
> $ isgoes=isgoes,ismodis=ismodis
>
> This is something stupid, but without any traceback, I am pretty much
> at sea.
```

I think it means that a variable is, uh, well, undefined. :-)

I would try this just before the call to the function:

```
HELP, lc, gf, gs
```

If the variables are defined there, then I suspect there is a problem inside the function with a misuse of `Keyword_Set`, or something similar.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
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Subject: Re: A New error msg, for me: % Variable is undefined: <UNDEFINED>
Posted by [MarioIncandenza](#) on Thu, 30 Mar 2006 00:05:03 GMT
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David,

Thanks for the reply.

Yeah, the variables are all there. Inside the function, I didn't use KEYWORD_SET, I just check for N_ELEMENTS, and indeed I had made a mistake when changing a variable name.

But it shouldn't have produced this "Variable is undefined: <UNDEFINED>", because _nothing_ should produce this error. If an undefined variable is invoked, the error returns the name of the variable. If a \$v is defined, then Expr(\$v) should be defined also, except in specific cases that have their own errors (e.g. non-existent structure tags, pointer stuff).

And whatever was the case, why didn't I get any traceback?

When you code by trial and error, as I do, errors that don't include traceback can exact a cost in pulled hair.

Cheers,

--Edward H.

Subject: Re: A New error msg, for me: % Variable is undefined: <UNDEFINED>
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 30 Mar 2006 00:16:01 GMT
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Ed Hyer writes:

> When you code by trial and error, as I do, errors that don't include
> traceback can exact a cost in pulled hair.

When you code by trial and error, pulled hair is the *least* of your problems. :-)

If it is tracebacks that you want, maybe you should stick a few ERROR_MESSAGE calls into your programs:

http://www.dfanning.com/programs/error_message.pro

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: A New error msg, for me: % Variable is undefined: <UNDEFINED>

Posted by [Wayne Landsman](#) on Thu, 30 Mar 2006 03:50:34 GMT

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> But it shouldn't have produced this "Variable is undefined:
> <UNDEFINED>", because `_nothing_` should produce this error. If an
> undefined variable is invoked, the error returns the name of the
> variable. If a `$v` is defined, then `Expr($v)` should be defined also,
> except in specific cases that have their own errors (e.g. non-existent
> structure tags, pointer stuff).

I agree.

It has been years since I have seen a similar error message, but the last time it happened it was due to a bug in IDL that was fixed in the subsequent release.

What IDL version are you using?

I suggest finding the simplest code that reproduces the message, and then filing a bug report with RSI.

--Wayne
