



AHELP for CIAO 3.4

## pquery

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## Synopsis

Query whether a parameter exists and, if so, get and return its value.

## Syntax

```
pquery toolname parameter
pquery toolname parameter [ [ para1=value ... ] | value1 ... ]
```

## Description

'pquery' is useful in scripts to get parameter values. It will prompt the user for parameter values for queried parameters (if not specified as optional arguments to the command line) and will simply return the values of hidden parameters.

## Example 1

```
pquery dmcopyp infile
```

Since `infile` in `dmcopyp.par` is a queried parameter, `pquery` would prompt the user for the value and then echo that back to `STDOUT` which could be grabbed by a script.

## Example 2

```
pquery dmcopyp infile infile='my_file.fits'
```

Now, since the parameter value has been specified, it will just return the parameter value (and set it in the parameter file).

## Example 3

```
echo infile outfile clobber | pquery dmcopyp - clob+
```

Will get the values for all three parameters: `infile`, `outfile`, and `clobber`. Since `clobber` is specified on the command line it will get the value (yes) from there. The other two parameter are typically 'queried'/automatic

parameters and would be prompted for.

## Parameters

| name                  | type   | ftype | reqd |
|-----------------------|--------|-------|------|
| <u>parameter_file</u> | string | input | yes  |
| <u>parameter</u>      | string | input | yes  |

## Detailed Parameter Descriptions

**Parameter=parameter\_file (string required filetype=input)**

*parameter file name*

Name (plus optional path) of the parameter file to use

**Parameter=parameter (string required filetype=input)**

*Name of parameter to query*

The name of the parameter to query. Optionally can use the various parameter attributes listed below to return those values.

### Parameter Attributes

| <b>p_mode</b> | <b>Whether the parameter is prompted for or not</b>   |
|---------------|---|
| p_value       | The value of the parameter. If the parameter is a redirected, this returns the redirection string rather than what the redirection evaluates too. |
| p_min         | Minimum value allowed   |
| p_max         | Maximum value allowed   |
| p_prompt      | The parameter prompt  |

If the parameter value is "-", a list of parameters is read from stdin.

## Bugs

See the [bugs page for this tool](#) on the CIAO website for an up-to-date listing of known bugs.

## See Also

*concept*

[parameter](#)

*modules*

[paramio](#)

*paramio*

[paccess](#), [paramclose](#), [paramopen](#), [pget](#), [pgets](#), [plist\\_names](#), [pquery](#), [pset](#), [punlearn](#)

*tools*

[dmhistory](#), [dmkeypar](#), [dmmakepar](#), [dmreadpar](#), [paccess](#), [pdump](#), [pget](#), [pline](#), [plist](#), [pset](#), [punlearn](#)

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URL:  
<http://cxc.harvard.edu/ciao3.4/pquery.html>  
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