![Chandra X-ray Center]

AHELP for CIAO 3.4   **pquery**   Context: tools

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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 dmcopy infile
```

Since infile in dmcopy.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 dmcopy 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 dmcopy – 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
parameter_file	string	input	yes
parameter	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

p_mode	Whether the parameter is prompted for or not
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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See Also