Why are some *Sherpa* commands case–sensitive, while others aren't?

Commands entered at the *Sherpa* prompt fall into three categories: "pure" *Sherpa* commands (i.e. commands handled directly by the *Sherpa* parser); *ChIPS* commands, which are passed to the *ChIPS* parser; and S–Lang statements, which are handled by the S–Lang interpreter.

The *Sherpa* and *ChIPS* parsers handle commands in a case–insensitive fashion. For example, the SHOW command is processed directly by the *Sherpa* parser, so you can enter it in any case:

```
sherpa> show statistic
Statistic:           Chi-Squared Gehrels
sherpa> SHOW statistic
Statistic:           Chi-Squared Gehrels
sherpa> sHoW statistic
Statistic:           Chi-Squared Gehrels
```

On the other hand, the names of S–Lang functions and variables *are* case–sensitive, and changing their capitalization will generate a Parse Error/Undefined Name message. For example, list_par is a S–Lang function defined in the *Sherpa* S–Lang module, and its name must be entered in lower case:

```
sherpa> list_par
  # Name Type        Value Lnk Frz       Min        Max      Delta
  1 cs.c0  src           1   0   0         0  3.4028e+38         -1
sherpa> LIST_PAR
Parse Error/Undefined Name: LIST_PAR;
```

Although S–Lang names can contain both upper and lower–case letters, the names of all functions and variables in the *Sherpa* module are strictly lower–case. Hence, if you are uncertain whether a command is actually a S–Lang function, typing it in lower–case is the safest approach.

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