
Subject: Re: How to find if an object contains another
Posted by [Ben Tupper](#) on Thu, 19 Oct 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Hello,

I encourage you to look into using Martin Schultz's MGS_CONTAINER replacement for IDL_CONTAINER. (Follow the links from David Fanning's web page to get to Martin's site.) Any objects with a NAME property (accessible via the objects GETPROPERTY method) can be retrieved by name, a name that you can specify. I'm not sure that all of the RSI provided objects have a NAME property (the TrackBall object comes to mind, but there may be others.) Any of the home-grown variety may or may not have the NAME property, depending upon the author's decision to build it in to the object.

The ability to retrieve by the user's NAME of the object has great advantages in many places. You can see how it might be valuable if you have two objects of the same class in the container, but only want one of them. Unless, you remember the position in which they are stored in the container you'll be up the creek figuring out which one is which.... well, you get the idea.

Concerning the validity of an object, you also have access to the OBJ_VALID and OBJ_CLASS functions as well as the COUNT keyword to the container GET method. Each of these will tell you something about the object you retrieved (or didn't retrieve, as the case may be.)

Hope this helps,

Ben

Dave Greenwood wrote:

```
> How do I determine if an object "contains" another one?
>
> For example, I can create a model object and add a surface object or
> a plot object. Given that model object, how would I find out whether
> or not a surface object has been added?
>
> The best I've come up with is something like:
>
> xx = model->get(/all,isa='idlgrsurface')
> s = size(xx)
> if s[1] eq 11 then $
>   print,'Has one or more surface' $
> else $
>   print,'Has no surfaces'
>
```

> Surely there's a simpler way?
>
> A related question is: how do I test if an object pointer (returned by
> the GetByName method, for example) is null?
>
> Thanks,
> Dave
> -----
> Dave Greenwood Email: Greenwoodde@ORNL.GOV
> Oak Ridge National Lab %STD-W-DISCLAIMER, I only speak for myself

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