
Subject: Re: Test if variable is a string
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Mon, 17 Feb 2003 10:36:07 GMT
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M. Katz wrote:

Did you recognize the tname keyword of size?

```
IDL> print,size(10L,/tname)
LONG
```

regards
Reimar

```
> Here's a handy little function I've been using for years.
> var_type.pro
> I think I added a number of new type names back in 2001.
> If RSI adds more types in the future, they'll probably
> be appended to the list rather than change the existing list.
> In that case, you'll have to modify the list.
>
> So the function returns the type as a number. But if
> you set the /string keyword, you'll get a string containing
> the name of the type.
>
> For example:
> IDL> print, var_type(10L)
>      3
> IDL> print, var_type(10L, /s)
> Longword Integer
>
> ;+
> ; IDL function: var_type.pro
> ; for a given input variable, this function returns
> ; the type of that variable. The returned value is a number 0-15
> ; similar to the second-to-last field in the "size" function,
> ; or if the keyword "string" is used, a string.
> ;-
>
> function var_type, a, string=string
>
>   s = ['Undefined','Byte','Integer','Longword
> Integer','Floating-point', $
>       'Double-precision floating','Complex
> floating','String','Structure', $
>       'Double-precision complex','Pointer','Object reference', $
>       'Unsigned Integer','Unsigned Longword Integer','64-bit
```

```

> Integer', $
>     'Unsigned 64-bit Integer']
>
> return, Keyword_set(string) ? s(size(a, /type)):size(a, /type)
> end
>
> I also have a closely related function called defined.pro that tests
> true-or-false, if a given variable is defined or not. It also uses
> size(x, /type), that's why I'm including it here.
>
> ;+
> ; IDL function: defined.pro
> ;   For a given input variable, this function returns
> ;   1b if the variable is defined
> ;   0b if the variable is undefined
> ; -
>
> function defined, a
> return, (size(a, /type) NE 0)
> end
>
>
> Hope this helps,
>
> M. Katz

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Reimar Bauer

Institut fuer Stratosphaerische Chemie (ICG-I)
 Forschungszentrum Juelich
 email: R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de

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      a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich
      http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html
=====

```