
Subject: Re: the type parser
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Sun, 15 May 2005 16:03:13 GMT
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Christopher Lee wrote:

```
> In article <d674k0$3dl$1@zam602.zam.kfa-juelich.de>, "Reimar Bauer"
> <R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de> wrote:
>
>
>> Dear all
>> I am searching for the function which tells idl what kind of type a
>> variable gets by it's assignment. e.g.
>> ....
>> cheers
>> Reimar
>
> Hi Reimar ,
>
> I'm not sure I understand, do you want the type of a constant value? (e.g
> 1, 2.3, 50000 ). Wouldn't SIZE or SIZE(/type) do this for you?
>
> size(1, /type) -> 2      ;INT
> size(50000, /type) -> 3  ;LONG
> size(1.0, /type) -> 4    ;FLOAT
> compile_opt idl2
> size(1,/type) -> 3      ;LONG
>
> Chris.
```

Hi Chris,

I look for the opposite direction. If I have a text file e.g.

```
[call_read]
a=1
b=50000
c=1.0
d='some text'
e=[1,2,3,4]
```

then I have strings and want to know which type is needed if they would be assigned to variables.

With the `read_ini()` from our library* I could read this easily into a structure using simple types. At the moment I do determine between float, long or string. But I don't do it the same way as idl it did.
I am intereseted how idl it did and if it is implemented somewhere without

the usage of EXECUTE. For example if it is named type:

```
IDL> print,type('1B')
IDL> 1
IDL> print,type('1')
IDL> 2
IDL> print,type('50000')
IDL> 3
IDL> print,type('1.0')
IDL> 4
IDL> print,type('some text')
IDL> 7
IDL> print,type('[1,2,3,4]')
IDL> 2 2 2 2
```

One way could be to call type in a different idl session and to use the file as input like a journal. But I don't like to do this.

*The read_ini()/write_ini will be published with the next version in probably two months.

cheers
Reimar

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