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Subject: Re: checking the data type in IDL  
Posted by [Dandelion](#) on Tue, 08 Sep 2009 09:25:25 GMT  
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On Sep 8, 12:30 am, "b.a" <u4565...@anu.edu.au> wrote:

> Hi,  
>  
> In the middle of my IDL program, I need to check the type of a  
> variable in order to decide what to do with it. I mean, I have to  
> check whether variable1 is a STRING or FLOAT (for example). Like this:  
>  
> IF variable1 'is STRING' do .....  
> else do ...  
>  
> Of course "help, variable1" will not help as it shows the answer on  
> the consol and I can't use it that way. If anybody knows how to do so,  
> please let me know. Thanks.  
>  
> Cheers

Use the SIZE function with the TYPE keyword to return the type code  
for an IDL variable. If you search -data type- or -size- in the IDL  
help, you will find more details.

~D

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