
Subject: Re: HASH -- bug, or "feature"?

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Wed, 20 Apr 2011 19:19:23 GMT

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On 4/20/11 1:12 PM, Gray wrote:

> Can anyone tell me why, when you create a hash, the elements are not
> in the order of the keys you give? And, even worse, when you index a
> hash with an array of keys, the resulting hash does not come out in
> the same order as the array?

>

> IDL> h = hash(['a','b','c','d'],indgen(4))

> IDL> print, h

> c: 2

> a: 0

> b: 1

> d: 3

> IDL> print, h[['a','c','d']]

> c: 2

> a: 0

> d: 3

>

> This is making my bookkeeping using hashes basically impossible.

>

> --Gray

Hashes are not an ordered collection.

If I wanted to store something in a hash, but order was important, I would use a list and a hash where the keys are added in the correct order to the list and then looked up in the hash to get the value.

Mike

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