
Subject: Re: bug? or how to distinguish between a Hash and an array of Hashes ?
Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Mon, 04 Mar 2013 16:11:53 GMT

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You could use the TYPENAME function to distinguish the two variables

```
IDL> print,typename(a)  
HASH  
IDL> print,typename(c)  
OBJREF
```

although I'm not sure why SIZE(/TNAME) doesn't give the same results. --Wayne

On Monday, March 4, 2013 11:05:03 AM UTC-5, superchromix wrote:

> surprisingly, the ISA function doesn't help here either...

```
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
> pro test  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
> a = hash('first', 1, 'second', 2)  
>  
> b = hash('third', 3, 'fourth', 4, 'fifth', 5)  
>  
>  
>  
>  
> print, 'Output of SIZE() for a HASH variable:'  
>  
> print, size(a, /STRUCTURE)  
>  
>  
>  
>  
> c = [a,b]  
>  
> print, 'Output of SIZE() for an array of HASHes:'  
>  
> print, size(c, /STRUCTURE)  
>  
>  
>  
> print, 'Output of ISA(/ARRAY) for scalar hash:'  
>  
> print, isa(a, /array)  
>
```

```
>
>
>     print, 'Output of ISA(/ARRAY) for array of hashes:'
>
>     print, isa(c, /array)
>
>
>
>     help, a, output=ahelp
>
>     help, c, output=chelp
>
>
>
>     print, 'Help for scalar hash:'
>
>     print, ahelp
>
>
>
>     print, 'Help for array of hashes:'
>
>     print, chelp
>
>
>
> end
>
>
>
> Output of SIZE() for a HASH varible:
>
> { OBJREF    11    0    0    2
>
>   1      2      0      0      0
>
>   0      0      0      0
>
> }
>
> Output of SIZE() for an array of HASHes:
>
> { OBJREF    11    0    0    2
>
>   1      2      0      0      0
>
>   0      0      0      0
>
```

```
> }
>
> Output of ISA(/ARRAY) for scalar hash:
>
>   1
>
> Output of ISA(/ARRAY) for array of hashes:
>
>   1
>
> Help for scalar hash:
>
> A      HASH <ID=154 NELEMENTS=2>
>
> Help for array of hashes:
>
> C      OBJREF = Array[2]
```
