
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 variable:
>
> { 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]
```
