
Subject: Re: How to check variable type?

Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Sat, 14 Aug 2004 01:26:38 GMT

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In article <512b0d8b.0408131520.46e68fbd@posting.google.com>, biophys@gmail.com (biophysics) wrote:

> Hi, guys
>
> I want to write a function that processes data very differently
> according to the type. But How do I check the type inline? I couldn't
> find any clue by a quick look through the function list. Can anybody
> give me some hints?
>
> thanks!

You mean it isn't obvious that you use SIZE to get the variable type?

```
CASE (SIZE(var, /TNAME) OF
  'UNDEFINED' : ...
  'BYTE'      : ...
  .
  .
  .
  ELSE       : ...
ENDCASE
```

To make it more obscure, you can use type codes instead of type names.
;-)

Regards, Ken Bowman

Subject: Re: How to check variable type?

Posted by [MKatz843](#) on Mon, 16 Aug 2004 23:49:55 GMT

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Here's a little dual-action function you can use.

```
;+
; -----
; IDL function: var_type.pro
; for a given input variable, this function returns
; the type of that variable. The returned value is a number 0-15
; equal to the second-to-last field in the "size" function,
; OR if the keyword "string" is set, a type name is returned.
;
;
; Examples:
```

```
; print, var_type(1d) ;--- returns "5"  
; print, var_type(1d, /string) ;--- returns "DOUBLE"  
; -----  
;-
```

```
function var_type, a, string = string  
return, keyword_set(string) ? size(a, /TNAME) : size(a, /TYPE)  
end
```

biophys@gmail.com (biophysics) wrote in message
news:<512b0d8b.0408131520.46e68fbd@posting.google.com>...

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