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Subject: bug? or how to distinguish between a Hash and an array of Hashes ?

Posted by [markb77](#) on Mon, 04 Mar 2013 14:16:47 GMT

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hi,

Is there any way to distinguish between a hash object and an array of hash objects? Normally I use the SIZE() function to test for data type, etc. However, in this case, SIZE() doesn't appear to be able to distinguish between a single, scalar HASH, and an array of HASHes.

Consider the following test code:

```
pro test
```

```
  a = hash('first', 1, 'second', 2)
  b = hash('third', 3, 'fourth', 4, 'fifth', 5)
  print, 'Output of SIZE() for a HASH variable:      ', size(a)
  c = [a,b]
  print, 'Output of SIZE() for an array of HASH variables: ',
size(c)
```

```
end
```

this gives the following output:

```
Output of SIZE() for a HASH variable:      1
2      11      2
Output of SIZE() for an array of HASH variables:
1      2      11      2
```

so.. identical. It appears that when you pass a scalar HASH object to SIZE(), it returns the number of elements in the HASH, and the N\_Dimensions fields shows it as being a 1D array, rather than a scalar.

Is there another way to distinguish between the two cases? This problem would apply to LIST objects as well.

thanks!

Mark

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