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Subject: ISA documentation

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Wed, 27 Sep 2017 18:02:10 GMT

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I recently had determine if an IDL variable was a hash, so my first thought was to use the ISA() function. But the ISA documentation does not mention its use to identify a hash -- or an ordered hash, or a dictionary, or a list

<http://www.harrisgeospatial.com/docs/ISA.html>

Of course, ISA() can be used to identify a hash variable

```
IDL> x = HASH('key1', 1, 'key2', 2)
IDL> PRINT, ISA(x, 'HASH')
1
```

Arguably, the ISA documentation can be defended because it does say that objects can be identified by their class name, and hashes, lists et al. are implemented as IDL objects

```
IDL> help,/obj,x
** Object class HASH, 1 direct superclass, 7 known methods
```

Still, I would think that the use of ISA() for hashes and lists et al. should be explicitly mentioned in the ISA() documentation. --Wayne

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Subject: Re: ISA documentation

Posted by [achim.holtmann](#) on Thu, 28 Sep 2017 11:15:10 GMT

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Am Mittwoch, 27. September 2017 20:02:13 UTC+2 schrieb wlandsman:

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> Still, I would think that the use of ISA() for hashes and lists et al. should be explicitly mentioned in the ISA() documentation. --Wayne

I agree with your request.

Additionally, it should be mentioned in the documentation that ISA(x, 'HASH') returns 1 and ISA([x,x], 'HASH') returns 0.

This has been discussed here: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!topic/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/HP5TBhuP02Y>

--Achim

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