

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Single vs multi-dimensional array](#)

UserName - March 1, 2014, 2:06 pm

Is there any way to programmatically determine if the array you are parsing is a regular array or a two dimensional array?

For example, how would you distinguish:

```
array1 = ["This", "Is", "A", "Sample", "Array", "."]
from
array2 = [["This", "Is"], ["A", "Sample"], ["Array", "."]]
```

Skyla Blue - March 1, 2014, 2:14 pm

(Mar 1, 2014 03:06 PM)_UserName_ Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Is there any way to programmatically determine if the array you are parsing is a regular array or a two dimensional array?

For example, how would you distinguish:

```
array1 = ["This", "Is", "A", "Sample", "Array", "."]
from
array2 = [["This", "Is"], ["A", "Sample"], ["Array", "."]]
```

A really really ghetto way of doing it could be:

```
Code if str(array2).count("[") > 1 and str(array2).count("],") > 1:
    print "Multi dimensional"
else:
    print "One dimensional"
```

ImportUsername - March 1, 2014, 2:33 pm

You can use `type()` to check the type of something. If you check the first item in the list, you can check if it's a list. If the first element of a list is a list, then it is two dimensional. Like this:

```
Code ls = [[1,2],[3,4]]
if type(ls[0]) is list:
    print ("Is 2D")
else:
    print ("Not 2D")
```

UserName - March 1, 2014, 3:11 pm

Thanks for the feedback. I'm going to try your way Import. I like the ghetto method btw Skyla Blue.

glob - March 1, 2014, 5:06 pm

(Mar 1, 2014 03:33 PM)ImportUsername Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You can use `type()` to check the type of something. If you check the first item in the list, you can check if it's a list. If the first element of a list is a list, then it is two dimensional. Like this:

```
Code ls = [[1,2],[3,4]]
if type(ls[0]) is list:
    print ("Is 2D")
else:
    print ("Not 2D")
```

That or you could use `isinstance`:

PHP Code

```
<?php
```

```
a = [[1,2,3],[4,5,6]]
print isinstance(a[0],list)
```

And if you wanted to check if any of the items are a list:

PHP Code

```
<?php
```

```
a = [[1,2,3],[4,5,6]]
print any(map(lambda x:isinstance(x,list),a))
```

UserName - March 1, 2014, 5:42 pm

Is there any reason to use either type or isinstance over the other.

ImportUsername - March 1, 2014, 6:17 pm

(Mar 1, 2014 06:42 PM)_UserName_ Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Is there any reason to use either type or isinstance over the other.

Take a look at this:

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/1549801/differences-between-isinstance-and-type-in-python>

(also maybe try a quick google search next time? ?)

UserName - March 1, 2014, 6:54 pm

The irony is that I posted here and then looked online and found that exact same page. I guess Google is as fast as a forum. ?