Pairs Language-Independent Type for YAML™ Version 1.1

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Status

This specification is a draft reflecting consensus reached by members of the yaml-core mailing list [http://lists.sourceforge.net/lists/listinfo/yaml-core]. Any questions regarding this draft should be raised on this list.

URI:          tag:yaml.org,2002:pairs
Shorthand:    !!pairs
Kind:         Sequence.
Definition:   Ordered sequence of key:value pairs allowing duplicates.

A common type used for modeling is the ordered list of named values, allowing duplicates. For example, this is one of the basic constructs used to model XML data. YAML provides a shorthand notation for representing this data type as a sequence of one-key mappings.

Most programming languages do not have a built-in native data type for supporting pairs. Such data types are usually provided by libraries. If no such data type is available, an application may resort to loading !!pairs into a native array of hash tables containing one key each.

The !!pairs tag may be given explicitly. Alternatively, the application may choose to implicitly type a sequence of single-key mappings to pairs. In this case, an explicit !!seq transfer must be given to sequences of single-key mappings that do not represent pairs.

Example 1. !!pairs Examples

# Explicitly typed pairs.
Block tasks: !!pairs
  - meeting: with team.
  - meeting: with boss.
  - break: lunch.
  - meeting: with client.
Flow tasks: !!pairs [ meeting: with team, meeting: with boss ]