Pairs Language-Independent Type for YAML™

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Status

This specification is a release candidate and reflects consensus reached by members of the yaml-core mailing list. Any questions regarding this draft should be raised on this list at http://lists.sourceforge.net/lists/listinfo/yaml-core. With this release of the YAML specification, all further changes will be strictly limited to clarifications, or fixing bugs in productions. At this point, further enhancement or correction of logical flaws will be put off to the next version (1.1) of the YAML specification.

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, or 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.
tasks: !pairs
- meeting: with team.
- meeting: with boss.
- break: lunch.
- meeting: with client.
```