
Subject: Re: passing strings as arguments?
Posted by [ronn](#) on Mon, 04 Jun 2001 21:17:23 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

in article yx6h3d9gufti.fsf@socrates.Berkeley.EDU,
noymer@socrates.Berkeley.EDU at noymer@socrates.Berkeley.EDU wrote on 6/4/01
4:54 PM:

```
> I am using Ronn Kling's PLOTSYM, the usage of which is:
>
> plot,x,y,psym=plotsym(/circle,scale=2,/fill)
>
> instead of /circle, one could use /box, /triangle, etc...
>
> I have something like:
>
> IF (condition) THEN myshape=string('/circle') ELSE
> myshape=string('/triangle')
> ENDIF
>
> and I want to pass the string "myshape" to plotsym as the
> first argument but I can't figure out how to do this in IDL 5.3.
>
> It seems not to like strings being passed there.
```

Hi Andrew,

Plotsym is looking for keywords so passing a string isn't going to work. But you can use the `_extra` keyword instead. What you want to do is create an anonymous structure that contains the keywords. Here's how

```
IF (condition) THEN myshape={circle:1} ELSE
myshape={triangle:1}
ENDIF
```

```
plot,x,y,psym=plotsym(_extra=myshape,scale=2,/fill)
```

You can also put the scale and fill keywords in myshape also. Just remember that something like `/fill` has to be `fill : 1` in the structure.

Ronn Kling

--

Ronn Kling

KRS, inc.

email: ronn@rlkling.com

"Application Development with IDL"½ programming book updated for IDL5.4!

"Calling C from IDL, Using DLM's to extend your IDL code" NEW BOOK!
Shareware and Freeware at: <http://www.rkling.com/>
