
Subject: Re: passing strings as arguments?

Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Tue, 05 Jun 2001 14:37:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

noymer@socrates.Berkeley.EDU wrote:

```
> 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.
```

The following method exploits the fact that /keyword and keyword=1 are equivalent:

```
;- Define keyword defaults
circle = 0
box = 0
triangle = 0

;- Set keyword values according to shape string
case shape of
  'circle' : circle = 1
  'box'    : box = 1
  'triangle' : triangle = 1
  else    : message, 'Shape string not recognized'
endcase

;- Create plot
plot, x, y, psym=plotsym(scale=2, /fill, $
  circle=circle, box=box, triangle=triangle)
```

Cheers,

Liam.

<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley/>
