Subject: Re: passing strings as arguments?
Posted by mperrin+news on Mon, 04 Jun 2001 21:17:39 GMT
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noymer@socrates.Berkeley.EDU <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.

Well, right. The argument "/circle" is just shorthand for "circle=1", which
(a) is a numerical not a string parameter and (b) is part of the interpreted
code rather than data. So you can't just pass in a string.

The easiest way to do this is probably with the "execute" command:

```
IF (condition) THEN myshape=string('/circle') ELSE
 myshape=string('/triangle')
ENDIF

commandstr = "plot,x,y,psym=plotsym("+myshape+",scale=2,/fill)"
result = execute(commandstr)
```

Alternatively, you could do something like:

```
IF (condition) THEN mytriangle=1 ELSE
 mycircle=1
ENDIF

plot,x,y,psym=plotsym(circle=mycircle, triangle=mytriangle,scale=2,/fill)
```

But that's a bit uglier and scales less well to multiple arguments.

 - Marshall