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Subject: convert very large string to numeric  
Posted by [mvukovic](#) on Mon, 25 Aug 2003 20:58:33 GMT  
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Hello,

I have a large two column matrix stored as a string, and I want to convert it to a two column float matrix.

I've been using a rather convoluted method of flattening out the string matrix by replacing end-of-lines with spaces (having converted to byte array first), and then using ParseLine (from David F.'s web site) to get a vector of numbers:

```
ByteBuffer = byte(self.CharBuffer)
iSubs = where( (ByteBuffer eq 9b) or $
               (ByteBuffer eq 10b) or $
               (ByteBuffer eq 13b), cSubs)
if cSubs ne 0 then begin
  ByteBuffer[iSubs] = 32b
endif

... etc
```

However, the ParseLine is rather slow for my large set of numbers. I suspect the reason is that it uses rather pedestrian and string oriented methods such as strpos and strmid.

Before I go and re-implement ParseLine by converting the string to a byte type and using where's to delimit numbers, I was wondering whether anyone might have done that already.

Thanks,

Mirko

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