
Subject: Re: extract numbers from string

Posted by [Benjamin Hornberger](#) on Tue, 21 Jun 2005 22:20:52 GMT

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Tobi wrote:

```
> i have a data file with a header that has several lines, which i read
> with
>
> readf,1,firstline
> readf,1,secondline
> ....
>
> firstline is a string that looks like
> xpixels = 1024
>
> i am trying to convert this to a variable called nx which has the value
> 1024.
>
> is there a clean and easy way to do this?
>
```

According to the IDL docs, quoted strings can be used only on output, not on input, so you can't just use a format code. It looks like you have to cut off "xpixels = " with `strmid()` and then use `fix()` or `long()` to convert "1024" to a number.

If you explicitly want to make sure the "xpixels = " part is present, you could use regular expressions, and with them extract the number (again as a string, then convert to a number).

Benjamin
