
Subject: Re: Testing validity of numerical content of a string
Posted by [Brian Larsen](#) on Thu, 07 Dec 2006 01:49:41 GMT
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On Dec 6, 6:38 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
> Y.T. writes:
>> Maybe this is a stupid question, but is there a way in IDL to tell
>> whether a string contains a valid representation of a particular data
>> type? For example an integer? I can do something like
>

One "unixy" way to do this is with regular expressions. I end up using these all the time (any should more).

Play with something like:

```
IDL> a='hello'
IDL> print, stregex(a, '[a-zA-Z]', /boolean)
1
IDL> b='3.14159'
IDL> print, stregex(b, '[a-zA-Z]', /boolean)
0
```

And one could work out a better regexp that looked for other non-numeric chars as well.

This is good and easy.

Cheers,
Brian
