
Subject: Re: Testing validity of numerical content of a string
Posted by [Brian Larsen](#) on Thu, 07 Dec 2006 18:18:03 GMT
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Excellent solution. I haven't played with `on_ioerror` but certainly will now.

Funny how you get stuck in a rut of how you normally do things even if its not the best, in fact probably never the best way :)

Brian

mgalloy@gmail.com wrote:

> Sven Geier wrote:

>> In a pinch one might just force the conversion and catch any resulting
>> error-messages with `ON_ERROR` -- that's ugly, but might be a lot easier than
>> trying to parse strings...

>

> So here's some code that does that:

>

> function validate_numeric, value
> compile_opt strictarr

>

> on_ioerror, badValue

>

> f = float(value)

> return, 1B

>

> badValue: return, 0B

> end

>

> The odd thing about this is what IDL will do without complaining. IDL
> will do this without any error:

>

> IDL> help, float('0.0hello5')

> <Expression> FLOAT = 0.00000

>

> but draws the line at:

>

> IDL> help, float('hello5')

> % Type conversion error: Unable to convert given STRING to Float.

> % Detected at: \$MAIN\$

> <Expression> FLOAT = 0.00000

>

> Mike

> --

> www.michaelgalloy.com
