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Subject: Re: Testing validity of numerical content of a string

Posted by [Bob\[3\]](#) on Thu, 07 Dec 2006 18:08:25 GMT

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On Dec 7, 12:43 pm, "mgal...@gmail.com" <mgal...@gmail.com> wrote:

> 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

Looks like Sven's regex is close to what IDL is doing. (except that both '+' and '-' are accepted and any exponent can have any number of digits, try e.g. help, float(' +5e00001hello'))

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