
Subject: Re: Testing validity of numerical content of a string
Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Thu, 07 Dec 2006 17:43:03 GMT
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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

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