
Subject: Re: how to tell it is character or it is number?
Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Tue, 07 Aug 2007 15:38:18 GMT
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> Is there a way I can tell whether it is numbers or it is characters?
> 'fix' command can convert the numbers, it will give an error message
> then continue to the execution.

There are lots of programs around to do this, with two variants. The first tests, as you suggest, whether IDL can convert the string into a numeric value

<http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/pro/misc/strnumber.pro>

But IDL will consider the string '1qz_3' to be a valid number (=1) so if you want a more usual interpretation, you need a more detailed test of whether the ordering of digits, letters and decimal points make sense as in

http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/pro/misc/valid_num.pro

--Wayne
