
Subject: Re: Why doesn't this work?

Posted by [David Foster](#) on Tue, 14 Jan 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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Tim Abbott wrote:

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>
> Can anyone tell me why this doesn't work?
>
> I need to extract the four numbers from the string "[123:456,246:135]"
>
> Here is the code segment I'm trying to use:
> IDL> str = "[123:456,246:135]"
> IDL> reads,str,x1,x2,x3,x4,format='(4(1X,I0))'
> % Unable to apply format code I to input: "]".
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$
> IDL> print,x1,x2,x3
>    123.000    246.000    0.00000
> IDL> print,x1,x2,x3,x4
> % PRINT: Variable is undefined: X4.
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$
>
```

Tim -

I've mailed you a copy of my routine GET_TOKEN.PRO that allows you to read byte, int, long, float, double and string values from a string, as tokens. The routine maintains a string pointer for subsequent calls.

You can parse the above string using:

```
IDL> str = "[123:456,246:135]"
IDL> pos=0
IDL> s1 = get_token( str, pos, sep='[:,]', /increment)
IDL> s2 = get_token( str, pos, sep='[:,]', /increment)
IDL> s3 = get_token( str, pos, sep='[:,]', /increment)
IDL> s4 = get_token( str, pos, sep='[:,]', /increment)
IDL> help, s1,s2,s3,s4
S1      STRING   = '123'
S2      STRING   = '456'
S3      STRING   = '246'
S4      STRING   = '135'
```

If anyone else is interested, send me an email and I'll send you a copy.

Dave

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