
Subject: Why doesn't this work?

Posted by [Tim Abbott](#) on Thu, 09 Jan 1997 08:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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: $MAIN$
```

Any ideas?

--

Timothy M. C. Abbott

<http://www.cfht.hawaii.edu/~tmca/tmca.html>
