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Subject: converting strings into numerical or string data depending on the contents  
Posted by [M. Katz](#) on Tue, 02 Oct 2012 23:09:22 GMT

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I'm looking for a way to elegantly transform string values:

- (a) keeping it as string-type when the string does not contain only numbers
- (b) convert into numeric-type data when appropriate.

The basic IDL type-casting routines {`fix()`, `double()`, etc.} spit out string-conversion complaints (non-fatal errors) whenever I apply them to arbitrary 'non-numerical' strings.

Is there a better way to do this than `stregex()`? (That is, am I going to have to learn to use `stregex()` to accomplish this filtering?)

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