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Subject: Trying to create a plot with strings as x-values...  
Posted by [doowstados](#) on Mon, 14 Apr 2014 02:32:27 GMT  
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Please forgive my poor IDL background. Hopefully you IDL experts can help me out.

I'm attempting to create a plot with strings as x values.

I have two lists being loaded from text files in this format:

```
xlist = list(value1, value1, value1, value2, value2, value3, ..., valueN)
```

```
ylist = list(12, 17, 15, 13, 11.4, 19, 17, ..., numN)
```

These lists are fairly short, maybe 150-200 coordinate pairs total, but only around 50 unique strings in the xlist, so the program doesn't need to be particularly resource efficient.

IDL's plot function and cgPlot don't seem to get along well with strings.

Does anyone know a way around this? Thanks in advance!

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