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Subject: Re: Trying to create a plot with strings as x-values...  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 14 Apr 2014 04:13:33 GMT  
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doowstados@gmail.com writes:

> 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.

I presume these "strings" are numbers. Something like '5.2' or '3.4'. If  
so, just cast them to floats before you plot them.

```
IDL> value = '5.3'  
IDL> Help, float(value)  
<Expression>  FLOAT    =    5.30000
```

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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