This is indeed a very useful place.

Helder, thanks for the ISNUMBER functions like. I do not have yet the library you mentioned but I found something similar in the IDL Astronomy Users Library that I already have.

Markus, thanks for the usage of regular expresions, it was educative. Indeed, that was the original direction of my question.

Finally, I will do as follow

str = strsplit(str, "[]", /Extract)
str = str[1]

And then to check with one of those ISNUMBER functions like.

Thanks again.