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Subject: Re: Convert hex string to number  
Posted by [Benjamin Hornberger](#) on Fri, 03 Jun 2005 20:16:24 GMT  
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Michael Wallace wrote:

> Assume you have a hexadecimal number stored as a string. How do you  
> convert this string to a numeric data type? I can easily convert a  
> number into a hex string, but how do you go the other way?  
>  
> -Mike

I think you can use READS with the FORMAT keyword.

Benjamin

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Subject: Re: Convert hex string to number  
Posted by [R.G. Stockwell](#) on Fri, 03 Jun 2005 20:26:04 GMT  
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"Michael Wallace" <[mwallace.no.spam@no.spam.swri.edu.invalid](mailto:mwallace.no.spam@no.spam.swri.edu.invalid)> wrote in  
message [news:11a1dbmnro4e0f9@corp.supernews.com...](mailto:news:11a1dbmnro4e0f9@corp.supernews.com...)

> Assume you have a hexadecimal number stored as a string. How do you  
> convert this string to a numeric data type? I can easily convert a number  
> into a hex string, but how do you go the other way?  
>  
> -Mike

IDL> s = 'f'

IDL> reads, s,out,format='(z)'

IDL> help,out

OUT FLOAT = 15.0000

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Subject: Re: Convert hex string to number  
Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Fri, 03 Jun 2005 20:43:40 GMT  
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>> Assume you have a hexadecimal number stored as a string. How do you  
>> convert this string to a numeric data type? I can easily convert a  
>> number into a hex string, but how do you go the other way?  
>>  
>> -Mike

>  
>  
> I think you can use READS with the FORMAT keyword.

Yep. That is exactly what I was trying to find. Thanks. I knew that it had to be in IDL somewhere, but I just couldn't figure out which magic searches would take me to the right area of the documentation.

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Subject: Re: Convert hex string to number  
Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Fri, 24 Jun 2005 22:02:12 GMT  
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>> Assume you have a hexadecimal number stored as a string. How do you  
>> convert this string to a numeric data type? I can easily convert a number  
>> into a hex string, but how do you go the other way?

>>  
>> -Mike

>  
>  
>  
> IDL> s = 'f'  
>  
> IDL> reads, s,out,format='(z)'  
>  
> IDL> help,out  
>  
> OUT FLOAT = 15.0000

It seems that when the hex numbers get so big, I start losing precision on the conversion. I have tried a number of different ideas with the format codes, but nothing has worked so far. It appears that reads always stores the output value as a float despite how big the input number is. Is there a way to for it to use double or long on the conversion?

```
IDL> reads, '1234abcd', output, format = '(Z)'
IDL> print, output, FORMAT = '(I10)'
 305441728
IDL> reads, '1234abce', output, format = '(Z)'
IDL> print, output, FORMAT = '(I10)'
 305441728
IDL> reads, '1234abcf', output, format = '(Z)'
IDL> print, output, FORMAT = '(I10)'
 305441728
```

Something is not right with the above picture...

-Mike

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