
Subject: Re: extract numbers from string

Posted by [Benjamin Hornberger](#) on Tue, 21 Jun 2005 22:20:52 GMT

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Tobi wrote:

```
> i have a data file with a header that has several lines, which i read
> with
>
> readf,1,firstline
> readf,1,secondline
> ....
>
> firstline is a string that looks like
> xpixels = 1024
>
> i am trying to convert this to a variable called nx which has the value
> 1024.
>
> is there a clean and easy way to do this?
>
```

According to the IDL docs, quoted strings can be used only on output, not on input, so you can't just use a format code. It looks like you have to cut off "xpixels = " with `strmid()` and then use `fix()` or `long()` to convert "1024" to a number.

If you explicitly want to make sure the "xpixels = " part is present, you could use regular expressions, and with them extract the number (again as a string, then convert to a number).

Benjamin

Subject: Re: extract numbers from string

Posted by [Tobi](#) on Wed, 22 Jun 2005 14:24:07 GMT

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Thanks Ben!

i also just found the STRSPLIT command which i am now using to extract the number (in my case the number is in the third place).

```
temp=strsplit(firstline,/extract)
nx=fix(temp[2])
```

Subject: Re: extract numbers from string

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 22 Jun 2005 14:29:53 GMT

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Haje Korth writes:

> Pretty clever, I guess I am one of the only IDL programmers out here that is
> not using the execute function.

Yeah, but everything you write, Haje, runs on the VM. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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