
Subject: Re: converting a vector into a string
Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Thu, 20 Oct 2005 20:33:07 GMT
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Francois L. wrote:

> Hello,
>
> Sorry, I am reposting this message again because the previous one contained
> many errors in the header...
>
> I have a vector A (integers):
>
>> A = [1,2,3,4]
>
> that I want to convert into a string.
>
> If I use the command
>
>> B = string(A)
>
> then B is a string of four elements.
>
> How can I convert A to string in order to have '1234' ? which is not an
> array of four elements...
>
> Well at the end, I want to convert '1234' into the number 1234.

There are several ways you could do this--it depends on exactly what you're trying to do--but how about:

```
IDL> print, strjoin(strtrim(string([1,2,3,4]),2))  
1234
```

Taking the function calls from inside out: STRING converts the integer array to a string array; STRTRIM trims spaces from each element of the string array (setting the second argument to 2 ensures that it removes both leading and trailing spaces); and STRJOIN joins the elements into a single string.

Actually, the call to STRING is redundant, as STRTRIM does the conversion automatically, so the following will achieve the same thing.

```
IDL> print, strjoin(strtrim([1,2,3,4],2))
```

Alternatively, you could use formatted output, eg:

```
IDL> print, string([1,2,3,4], FORMAT='(4I)')  
1      2      3      4
```

```
IDL> print, string([1,2,3,4], FORMAT='(4I0)')
```

```
1234
```

```
1234
```

```
--
```

Mark Hadfield "Kei puwaha te tai nei, Hoesa tahi tatou"
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Subject: Re: converting a vector into a string

Posted by news.qwest.net on Thu, 20 Oct 2005 20:39:05 GMT

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"Francois L." <fleduc@lycos.com> wrote in message
news:1129837956.424479@news.drenet.dnd.ca...

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> array of four elements...

>

> Well at the end, I want to convert '1234' into the number 1234.

>

> Thank you,

>

> Francois Leduc

```
IDL> help,long(strcompress(strjoin(string([1,2,3,4])),/rem))
```

```
<Expression> LONG = 1234
```

Cheers,

bob

Subject: Re: converting a vector into a string
Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Thu, 20 Oct 2005 22:27:48 GMT
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R.G. Stockwell wrote:

```
> "Francois L." <fleduc@lycos.com> wrote in message
> news:1129837956.424479@news.drenet.dnd.ca...
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>> array of four elements...
>>
>> Well at the end, I want to convert '1234' into the number 1234.
>>
>
>
> IDL> help,long(strcompress(strjoin(string([1,2,3,4])),/rem))
>
> <Expression> LONG = 1234
```

Cool. I was not aware of STRCOMPRESS. It seems it's been in IDL since the beginning, whereas I've only been using IDL since 1992!

Looking again at the original poster's last sentence, I wonder if conversion to and from strings isn't an unnecessary detour. He is starting with integer array [1,2,3,4] and wants to end up with decimal integer 1234. So perhaps his problem can be interpreted as "convert a vector of integers (all presumably between 0 and 9) to a number on the assumption that the elements of the vector represent the digits of the number in decimal form". If so I suggest

```
IDL> a = [1,2,3,4]
```

```
IDL> help, total(a*10^reverse(lindgen(n_elements(a))), /INTEGER)
<Expression> LONG64 =          1234
```

--

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