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Subject: naming PS plots: variable+ string?

Posted by [maldayeh](#) on Fri, 17 Feb 2006 07:48:49 GMT

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Hello,

I am trying to name a PS file as a variable, for instance, if I am using 2004 data, I'd like the output plot to be named "2004.PS"

I used:

```
psfilename =string(figname+'.ps')
```

and

```
psfilename =figname+'.ps'
```

where figname could be any number.

I always get this error message:

```
% Type conversion error: Unable to  
convert given STRING to Integer.
```

Any idea!

Thanks a lot.

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Subject: Re: naming PS plots: variable+ string?

Posted by [peter.albert@gmx.de](#) on Fri, 17 Feb 2006 08:44:25 GMT

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Hi again,

the reason for the error message is than in both examples you are trying to add an integer variable (figname) to a string variable ('.ps'). IDL starts with interpreting

"figname + ..." so it expects that the variable after the "+" sign is any kind of number, too. It is difficult to guess which number is represented by the string ".ps", therefore IDL is giving up ...

You want to use the "+" sign for concatenating strings, so you must ensure that "figname" is a string \_before\_ "adding" it to ".ps".

You would start with

```
psfilename = string(figname) + ".ps"
```

and be surprised about the many blanks in the filename. Hence, something like

```
psfilename = string(figname, format = '(i4.4)') + ".ps"
```

already looks much better. Or, alternatively

```
psfilename = strcompress(string(figname), /remove_all) + ".ps"
```

The first example leaves you with 4 characters before the ".ps", no matter which value figname has:

```
0001.ps  
0002.ps  
...  
2004.ps  
...
```

but fails when figname exceeds 9999. The second example works with all integer values but creates filenames like

```
1.ps  
2.ps  
10.ps  
...
```

Cheers,

Peter

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Subject: Re: naming PS plots: variable+ string?  
Posted by [maldayeh](#) on Fri, 17 Feb 2006 20:09:31 GMT  
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Peter,  
Perfect! Thanks again for your help.

Maher

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