
Subject: Re: Where's the syntax error? No stringst that only contain numbers?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 18 Sep 2006 16:57:06 GMT

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Ingo von Borstel writes:

```
> when calling the plot routine, I found that I cannot use all kind of
> strings as title strings:
> Quote:
> IDL> x = [1,2,3,4,5,6]
> IDL> y = [1,2,3,4,7,8]
> IDL> plot, x,y,xtitle="x",ytitle="y"
> IDL> plot, x,y,xtitle="1",ytitle="2"
>
> plot, x,y,xtitle="1",ytitle="2"
>           ^
> % Syntax error.
> IDL>
>
> I get no syntax error in the first case and one in the second. I don't
> really see why. Especially as the examples are to my eyes exactly alike.
> Are strings, that contain only figures not allowed?
> I'm using IDL 6.1
```

IDL thinks you are trying to create an octal constant,
not a string. Use single quotes here and you will be
set. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Where's the syntax error? No stringst that only contain numbers?

Posted by [Jean H.](#) on Mon, 18 Sep 2006 17:02:38 GMT

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```
try plot, x,y,xtitle='1',ytitle='2' (single quote)
```

Jean

Ingo von Borstel wrote:

```
> Hello,
```

>
> when calling the plot routine, I found that I cannot use all kind of
> strings as title strings:
> Quote:
> IDL> x = [1,2,3,4,5,6]
> IDL> y = [1,2,3,4,7,8]
> IDL> plot, x,y,xtitle="x",ytitle="y"
> IDL> plot, x,y,xtitle="1",ytitle="2"
>
> plot, x,y,xtitle="1",ytitle="2"
> ^
> % Syntax error.
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> I get no syntax error in the first case and one in the second. I don't
> really see why. Especially as the examples are to my eyes exactly alike.
> Are strings, that contain only figures not allowed?
> I'm using IDL 6.1
>
> Regards,
> Ingo

Subject: Re: Where's the syntax error? No stringst that only contain numbers?
Posted by [Ingo von Borstel](#) on Tue, 19 Sep 2006 07:42:21 GMT
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Thanks a lot to David and Jean!

Your suggestion works nicely. And sometimes IDL's string definitions are just driving me mad... :(

Best regards,
Ingo

--

Ingo von Borstel <newsgroups@planetmaker.de>
Public Key: <http://www.planetmaker.de/ingo.asc>

If you need an urgent reply, replace newsgroups by vgap.

Subject: Re: Where's the syntax error? No stringst that only contain numbers?
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 19 Sep 2006 11:57:13 GMT
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Ingo von Borstel writes:

> Your suggestion works nicely. And sometimes IDL's string definitions are
> just driving me mad... :(

I take it you are not a Java programmer. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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Subject: Re: Where's the syntax error? No stringst that only contain numbers?

Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Tue, 19 Sep 2006 18:15:47 GMT

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On Mon, 18 Sep 2006 10:57:06 -0600, David Fanning wrote:

> IDL thinks you are trying to create an octal constant,
> not a string. Use single quotes here and you will be
> set. :-)

Whoever invented the notation "n for an octal constant should be taken out and shot, or at least go through an extreme de-tox treatment to remove whatever substance must have been influencing them at the time.

Consider this cornucopia of consistency:

```
IDL> a="12
IDL> help,a
A      INT      =    10
IDL> a="18
IDL> help,a
A      INT      =     1
IDL> a="81
IDL> help,a
A      STRING   = '81'
```

not to mention that all those loose double-quotes really mess up string formatting. I recommend the far more sensible:

```
IDL> a='12'O
```

possibly coupled with a stern note to ITTVIS suggesting they provide

an option to disable the former brain-dead notation.

JD
