
Subject: Type conversion error: Unable to convert given STRING to Float.

Posted by [Zac](#) on Tue, 05 Jul 2011 14:36:30 GMT

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Hi,

Can anyone tell me why IDL thinks that the variable in the for loop below is a string?

Here's the offending part of the script. After I've opened the input file, I'm trying to loop over the one of the dimensions in the file (in this case the vertical layers of a file that contains gridded, 3-d aircraft emissions). I want to plot the emissions at each layer. I can hard code the layer number in the script and it works fine. When I try to implement the for loop, IDL is complaining that "lay" is a string.

In addition, I tried to take the for loop out altogether and just add in a variable for the layer number, something like:

```
lay = 2
```

This gives the same type conversion error

What am I doing wrong here?

Thanks in advance, Zac

...

```
ni=n_elements(lon)
nj=n_elements(lat)
nz=n_elements(lev)
```

```
for lay=0,nz-1 do begin
  air_pl=air[:,*,lay]
```

```
  myct, 1, range=[0.4,1], /reverse
```

```
  !P.font(0)=0
```

```
  minvar=0
  maxvar=1E9
```

```
  layr=lay+1
```

```
  Open_Device, /ps, /Color, filename="+outdir+'/emissions_'+sim
  +'_air_level_'+layr+'_'+pol+'.ps'
  tvmap, air_pl, lon, lat, BLACK=1, NColors=225, Bottom = 20, /coasts, $
```

```
Title='Layer '+layr+' Aircraft '+pol+' Emissions - '+simtitle,$
/Continents,/Cylindrical,/SAMPLE,/isotropic, $
/CBAR, Divisions=3, min_valid=minvar, $
mindata=minvar, maxdata=maxvar, $
CBFORMAT='(e12.2)', CBMAX=maxvar, CBMIN=minvar,CBUNIT='molec/cm2-
sec',$
/landscape, /grid, /countries, xthick=4,$
ythick=4, thick=1.2, charthick=2, charsize=1, csfac=0.7,
tcsfac=0.
close_device

endfor ; layer loop

endfor ; pollutant loop
```

Subject: Re: Type conversion error: Unable to convert given STRING to Float.
Posted by [Brian Wolven](#) on Tue, 05 Jul 2011 21:27:16 GMT
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```
filename="+outdir+'/emissions_'+sim+'_air_level_'+string(la yr)+'_'+pol+'.ps'
```

You can also supply a format specification to the STRING function; see the help file (?string) for details.
