
Subject: STRING(/PRINT) bug?
Posted by [deutsch](#) on Wed, 04 Nov 1992 23:57:24 GMT
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Is this a bug or just the way it is:

```
IDL> print, strtrim(string('366,2', /print), 2)
366,2
IDL> print, strtrim(string('(366 2)'), 2)
(366 2)
IDL> print, strtrim(string('(366,2)', /print), 2)
% "(366,2)"
% ^
% Repetition count not allowed with ", ".
% Execution halted at STARCHCK2 </home/idlv2/deutsch/img/starchck2.pro( 55)>
  (STRING).
%   Called from IMGCLEAN </home/idlv2/deutsch/img/imgclean.pro( 163)>.
%   Called from $MAIN$ .
```

It seems that IDL is interpreting my string as a format, although there is no other argument which could be the the object of the format. This only happens when the PRINT keyword is set.

Using the regular prints statement, IDL seems to know the difference:

```
IDL> print, '(366,2)'
(366,2)
```

At the moment, I'm working around this by first checking the data type of the argument to string: if it's a string, I turn PRINT off, if it's anything else I use /PRINT. This seems a little unnecessary...

Is this problem a bug left over from before the Keyword era, or the way it's supposed to be?

Note to the users of the Astronomy Library, this affects the use of the STRN and VECT functions...

```
IDL> print, strn(vect([100,200]), length=20)
```

will not work....

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