



How can I control whether *Sherpa* or S–Lang interprets a command?

Sherpa can interpret both native *Sherpa/ChIPS* commands and S–Lang statements. Although differences in syntax are generally sufficient to distinguish the two, ambiguous input is possible.

In the example below, the user tries to define a source model *and* a S–Lang variable "src", using the syntax `src = ...` in both cases. The syntactic ambiguity causes problems:

```

sherpa> src = constld[c] # Define a source model
sherpa> show src
c
constld[c] (integrate: on)
  Param  Type      Value      Min      Max      Units
  -----
  1      c0 thawed      1          0 3.4028e+38
sherpa> src = "NGC 1068" # Define the S–Lang variable "src"
sherpa> print(src)
NGC 1068
sherpa> show src
Model not defined.
sherpa> # S–Lang assignment erased the source model definition
  
```

Clearly, the best solution in this case is to choose a different name for the S–Lang variable. However, it is possible to force an input line to be interpreted as *only* a *Sherpa* command by using the `sherpa eval` function or *only* a S–Lang statement by using the `eval` function.

The above example can be corrected by using `eval` to create the "src" variable:

```

sherpa> src = constld[c]
sherpa> eval("variable src = \"NGC 1068\"")
sherpa> show src
c
constld[c] (integrate: on)
  Param  Type      Value      Min      Max      Units
  -----
  1      c0 thawed      1          0 3.4028e+38
sherpa> print(src)
NGC 1068
  
```

FAQ Entry – CIAO 3.4

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URL:
http://cxc.harvard.edu/sherpa3.4/faq/slangcomm_interp.html
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