Characters to Numbers in SAS

It is possible to create numeric variables out of character variables. Following is an example of how to do this with SAS.

```sas
* numchar.sas;
data one; input charvar1 $;
cards;
0039504383
O1
X
10;
data two; set one;
** Initialize a variable as a number by assigning it a numeric missing value "." ;
** Next assign it the values in your character variable ;
** Note that variables that have non-numeric values will
** be given missing values. This is true for any case
** that has any character "O" instead of the number "0". ;
** Also note that preceding zeros will be dropped. ;
numvar1 = . ;
numvar1 = charvar1 ;
proc print; run;
```

You will get the following message when a non-numeric value is encountered.

```
NOTE: Character values have been converted to numeric values at the places given by:
    (Line):(Column).
       86:11
NOTE: Invalid numeric data, charvar1='O1' , at line 86 column 11.
charvar1=01 numvar1=. _ERROR_=1 _N_=2
NOTE: Invalid numeric data, charvar1='X' , at line 86 column 11.
charvar1=X numvar1=. _ERROR_=1 _N_=3
NOTE: There were 4 observations read from the data set WORK.ONE.
```

The output for this program follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Obs</th>
<th>charvar1</th>
<th>numvar1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>00395043</td>
<td>395043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>