
Subject: Re: string manipulation
Posted by [landsman](#) on Tue, 27 Feb 2001 21:29:00 GMT
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In article <on66hxm5tk.fsf@cow.physics.wisc.edu>, craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu writes...

> This is primarily because STRMID and STRPUT are not
> vectorized at all. Well STRMID *is* vectorized, but not with a sane
> behavior. For example, what I'd like to do is:
>
> NEWKEY = STRMID(KEY,0,P1) + '50' + STRMID(KEY,P2,100)
> NEWKEY = STRMID(KEY,0,P1) + '50' + STRMID(KEY,P2,100)
>
> Where KEY, P1, and P2 are vectors. Obviously this doesn't work. Any
> ideas?

The problem when STRMID was vectorized for V5.3 was that it was made *too* powerful -- it handles simultaneously both extraction from multiple strings and multiple extractions from a single string. In practice, I think the first situation -- extraction from multiple strings -- is far more common, but has an ugly syntax in the current STRMID implementation. Here is how one does the example above.

```
N = N_elements(KEY)
NEWKEY = STRMID(KEY,INTARR(1,N),REFORM(P1,1,N)) + '50' + $
          STRMID(KEY,REFORM(P2,1,N), REPLICATE(100,1,N) )
```

I have thought about writing a simple wrapper around STRMID (say STRMIDV) that would have a simpler syntax for the case of single extractions from multiple strings.

--Wayne Landsman landsman@mpb.gsfc.nasa.gov
