

---

Subject: Re: Regular Expressions

Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Fri, 16 Mar 2001 17:20:50 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Wayne Landsman wrote:

> P.S. The real-life problem I am working on deals not with 'l' but with  
> apostrophes. I am trying to speed up the processing of FITS header  
> values, where a string is delineated by non-repeating apostrophes, and a  
> possessive is indicated by a double apostrophe.  
>  
> VALUE = 'This is Wayne's FITS value' / Example string field

how about:

```
IDL> value= "VALUE = 'This is Wayne's FITS value' / A FITS COMMENT"  
IDL> print,(strex(value,/SUBEXPR,/EXTRACT,"= *'(.*)'([^\"]|$)")[1])
```

You will always have something before the initial "" in the full header record.

You can then change double quotes to single quotes in the usual way with a strpos loop.

JD

---