
Subject: Re: Another strsplit question

Posted by [MKatz843](#) on Tue, 20 Jan 2004 20:49:08 GMT

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

kneller@nist.gov (Larry Kneller) wrote in message
news:<96e91d8d.0401200800.34fa60fa@posting.google.com>...

```
> Most functions in IDL will operate on arrays.  
> Is there a way to make strsplit allow this?  
>  
> e.g.  
> s = ['I see the computer.','I am typing a message.',  
> 'This is the idl-pvwave newsgroup.']  
>  
> segs = strsplit(s,/extract,/some_option)  
>  
> print,segs[0,0],segs[1,0],segs[2,0],segs[2,4]  
>  
> RESULT WOULD BE:  
>  
> I I This newsgroup.
```

The difficulty here is that since every input string is different, every row of the output array will want to have a different number of values. So it's ambiguous how you'd write it. Would you look for the row with the most elements and make all rows be that long? That's one way. Or would you have the output be a pointer array where each element points to an array of strings. That's probably more memory efficient in the long run, but some people might not like dealing with pointers, and you'd run the risk of asking for array elements that don't exist.

Looks like you need to write your own function here to fit your needs. That's pretty straightforward to do in a case like this.

M. Katz
