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Subject: Re: splitting strings

Posted by [KM](#) on Sat, 05 Feb 2005 15:21:49 GMT

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On Fri, 4 Feb 2005, Benjamin Hornberger wrote:

> Benjamin Hornberger wrote:

>> Hi all,

>>

>> I would like to split a string by whitespace characters, while  
>> anything between quotes should be recognized as one elements  
>> (even if it contains whitespace). Let's say I have the string

>>

>> 'cat dog "ground hog" bird'

>>

>> I want to split it into ['cat', 'dog', 'ground hog', 'bird'].

>

> Ok, here we go. Found on <http://php.net/split> and translated to

> IDL with some modifications. Any comments are welcome.

Looks like it works. It is loopy, but I doubt you need much speed, unless you have a lot of strings. That being said, I got this working before you posted that with your 2nd example. The 2nd example breaks the code, but works with some minor modifications. The following is not very robust.

```
str = 'cat dog "ground hog" "bird"'
str2 = strsplit(str,/extract) ; split on whitespace
split = STREGEX(str2,"") ; find all ""s
split_loc = where( split gt 0, n )-1 ; use only the 2st half
str3 = str2
str3[ split_loc ] = str3[split_loc]+" "+str3[split_loc+1] ; patch
str3[ split_loc+1 ] = "rem" ; remove the 2nd half of the bad split
str3 = str3[ where( str3 NE 'rem' ) ]
```

Also, unrelated to the above:

```
IDL> print, stregex(str, ".*( ).*", /subexpr)
```

prints both the location of the " and the space.

So I'm pretty sure there is a way to do this without loops...

-k.