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Subject: Re: Removing some but not all spaces in a string  
Posted by [humanumbrella](#) on Tue, 29 Jul 2008 12:45:05 GMT  
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On Jul 29, 7:26 am, Jeremy Bailin <astroco...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Jul 28, 10:41 pm, Craig Markwardt

>

>

>

> <craigm...@REMOVEcow.physics.wisc.edu> wrote:

>> wlandsman <wlands...@gmail.com> writes:

>>> I'm looking for suggestions for the best way remove the spaces around

>>> "operators" (e.g. < , > , =) in a string but not around other

>>> characters. For example, I want the string

>

>>> 'name = ngc 5548, v <15'

>

>>> to become

>

>>> 'name=ngc 5548, v<15'

>

>> I usually do specialized string twizzling at the byte level, which is

>> done in TEST2 below. I'm not sure if TEST2 faster or more elegant

>> than your TEST, but it avoids all the gluing and ungluing inherent in

>> the STREGEX() method. It's a pity there isn't a STREPLACE() which  
>> handles regular expressions.

>

>> I also attached a version based on REPSTR() but since that sub-routine

>> itself does glue/unglue, it's just hiding the mess behind a facade.

>

>> Craig

>

>> pro test2, st

>> space = 32b

>> ops = '<>=' ;; Operations to delete spaces

>> bops = byte(ops)

>

>> st = strtrim(strcompress(st),2)

>> if st EQ '' then return

>

>> bb = byte(st)

>> mask = 0b

>> for i = 0, n\_elements(bops)-1 do begin

>> mask = mask OR [(bb EQ space AND bb(1:\*) EQ bops(i)),0b]

>> mask = mask OR [0b,(bb EQ bops(i) AND bb(1:\*) EQ space)]

>> endfor

>

>> wh = where(mask EQ 0)

```

>> st = string(byte(bb(wh)))
>> return
>> end
>
>> pro test3, st
>> space = ''
>> ops = ['<','>','=']    ;; Operations to delete spaces
>
>> st = strtrim(strcompress(st),2)
>> if st EQ " then return
>> for i = 0, n_elements(ops)-1 do begin
>>     op = ops(i)
>>     st = repstr(st, ' '+op, op)
>>     st = repstr(st, op+' ', op)
>> endfor
>> return
>> end
>
>> --
>> -----
>> Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D.    EMAIL: craigm...@REMOVEcow.physics.wisc.edu
>> Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response
>> -----
>
> I know this is a cheat, but I'm a firm believer in using the right
> tool for the job... and string manipulation is not IDL's.
>
> spawn, "echo '"+string1+"' | sed -e 's/ *\[<=>\) */\1/g'", string2
>
> -Jeremy.

```

What if you take all spaces out and just put one back in after c  
and , ??

Cheers,  
--Justin