
Subject: Re: Removing some but not all spaces in a string
Posted by [Jeremy Bailin](#) on Tue, 29 Jul 2008 11:26:32 GMT
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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.