Subject: Re: Removing some but not all spaces in a string
Posted by Craig Markwardt on Tue, 29 Jul 2008 02:41:55 GMT

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wlandsman <wlandsman@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
```

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Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D.   EMAIL: craigmnet@REMOVEcow.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response
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