
Subject: Removing some but not all spaces in a string
Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Mon, 28 Jul 2008 20:33:49 GMT
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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 give a brute force method below which (1) first deals with leading spaces and then with following spaces (2) breaks apart the string and then glues it together to remove each space one at a time. Any ideas on how to improve this?

pro test,st

;remove space around operators in a scalar string, st
st = strcompress(st) ;Ok to compress to a single space

op1 = '(<|>|=' ;Operators are <, > and =
n = stregex(st, op1) ;first look for Leading space
while n GT 0 do begin
 st = strmid(st,0,n) + strmid(st,n+1) ;piece string together
 n = stregex(st,op1) ;Look for another occurrence since
 stregex just gives the first
endwhile

op2 = '(<|>|=) ' ;Following space
n = stregex(st, op2)
while n GT 0 do begin
 st = strmid(st,0,n+1) + strmid(st,n+2)
 n = stregex(st,op2)
endwhile

return
end
