
Subject: Re: again strsplit

Posted by [Paolo Grigis](#) on Wed, 21 Jan 2004 14:45:56 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hallo Reimar,

is not \$ a special command character for regular expressions?

If you enclose it in [] braces, then it is not interpreted, I think.

```
IDL> print,a
```

```
ABC$DEF
```

```
IDL> print,strsplit(a,['$/extr,/regex)
```

```
ABC DEF
```

Cheers,

Paolo

Reimar Bauer wrote:

> Hi all

>

> I have learned the /regex keyword but who could explain this:

>

> a='ABC\$DEF'

> print,strsplit(a,'\$/extr)

>

> ABC DEF

>

> and

>

> a='ABC\$DEF'

> print,strsplit(a,'\$/extr,/regex)

>

> ABC\$DEF

>

>

> Why is this differnt?

>

>

> regards

>

> Reimar

Subject: Re: again strsplit

Posted by [btt](#) on Wed, 21 Jan 2004 14:46:33 GMT

Reimar Bauer wrote:

```
> Hi all
>
> I have learned the /regex keyword but who could explain this:
>
> a='ABC$DEF'
> print, strsplit(a, '$', /extr)
>
> ABC DEF
>
> and
>
> a='ABC$DEF'
> print, strsplit(a, '$', /extr, /regex)
>
> ABC$DEF
>
>
> Why is this different?
>
```

Hi Reimar,

Funny, I was just fiddling with this, too.

I assume that you want to split the string into substrings using the '\$' character. To do so, you need to use the escape character (backslash) before the '\$' since '\$' is also a REGEX control character.

```
IDL> a = 'ABC$DEF'
IDL> print, strsplit(a, '\$', /extr, /regex)
ABC DEF
```

Cheers,
Ben

Subject: Re: again strsplit
Posted by [tam](#) on Wed, 21 Jan 2004 14:48:08 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Reimar Bauer wrote:

```
> Hi all
>
> I have learned the /regex keyword but who could explain this:
```

```
>
> a='ABC$DEF'
> print, strsplit(a, '$', /extr)
>
> ABC DEF
>
> and
>
> a='ABC$DEF'
> print, strsplit(a, '$', /extr, /regex)
>
> ABC$DEF
>
>
> Why is this different?
>
>
> regards
>
> Reimar
```

Presuming IDL uses the same conventions for regular expressions that have been popularized in Perl I'd assume that if you've turned on regular expressions that an unescaped \$ has the special meaning of matching the end of the string (and ^ the beginning).

So
print, strsplit(a, 'f\$', /extr, /regex)
will try to split on a terminal f and you should get

```
ABC$DE
```

as the result.

If you want to match with the character '\$' then just escape it with a backslash.

```
print, strsplit(a, '\$', /extr, /regex)
```

Regards,
Tom McGlynn

Subject: Re: again strsplit
Posted by [savoieNoSpam](#) on Wed, 21 Jan 2004 16:42:41 GMT

Reimar Bauer <R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de> writes:

```
> Hi all
>
> I have learned the /regex keyword but who could explain this:
>
> a='ABC$DEF'
> print, strsplit(a, '$', /extr)
>
> ABC DEF
>
> and
>
> a='ABC$DEF'
> print, strsplit(a, '$', /extr, /regex)
>
> ABC$DEF
>
>
> Why is this different?
```

Because '\$' is the regular expression for end of line. If you want to have the actual dollar sign, you need to escape it with a back slash first.

```
IDL> print, strsplit(a, '\$', /extr, /regex)
ABC DEF
```

Helps?

Matt

--
Matthew Savoie - Scientific Programmer
National Snow and Ice Data Center
(303) 735-0785 <http://nsidc.org>

Subject: Re: again strsplit
Posted by [R. Bauer](#) on Thu, 22 Jan 2004 14:59:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

savoieNoSpam@nsidc.org wrote:
> Reimar Bauer <R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de> writes:
>
>
>> Hi all

```
>>
>> I have learned the /regex keyword but who could explain this:
>>
>> a='ABC$DEF'
>> print, strsplit(a, '$', /extr)
>>
>> ABC DEF
>>
>> and
>>
>> a='ABC$DEF'
>> print, strsplit(a, '$', /extr, /regex)
>>
>> ABC$DEF
>>
>>
>> Why is this different?
>
>
> Because '$' is the regular expression for end of line. If you want to have
> the actual dollar sign, you need to escape it with a back slash first.
>
> IDL> print, strsplit(a, '\$', /extr, /regex)
> ABC DEF
>
> Helps?
>
> Matt
>
```

Dear all

Thanks,

Is there a function available which returns the key codes of regular expression signs.

This is now a bit complicated. I have to use /regex because the separation could be done by more as one sign. But if it is a \$ or something else of a regex code I have to add a \ sign in front.

If a variable is used for the separator have I always to test on this?

The old str_sep routine without regex was much clearer.

regards

Reimar

Subject: Re: again strsplit
Posted by [tam](#) on Thu, 22 Jan 2004 16:11:06 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Reimar Bauer wrote:

```
> savoieNoSpam@nsidc.org wrote:
>
>> Reimar Bauer <R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de> writes:
>>
>>
>>> Hi all
>>>
>>> I have learned the /regex keyword but who could explain this:
>>>
>>> a='ABC$DEF'
>>> print,strsplit(a,'$',/extr)
>>>
>>> ABC DEF
>>>
>>> and
>>>
>>> a='ABC$DEF'
>>> print,strsplit(a,'$'/extr,/regex)
>>>
>>> ABC$DEF
>>>
>>> Why is this differnt?
>>
>>
>>
>> Because '$' is the regular expression for end of line. If you want to
>> have
>> the actual dollar sign, you need to escape it with a back slash first.
>> IDL> print,strsplit(a,'\\$'/extr,/regex)
>> ABC DEF
>>
>> Helps?
>>
>> Matt
>>
>
>
> Dear all
```

>
> Thanks,
>
>
> Is there a function available which returns the key codes of regular
> expression signs.
>
> This is now a bit complicated. I have to use /regex because the
> separation could be done by more as one sign. But if it is a \$ or
> something else of a regex code I have to add a \ sign in front.
>
> If a variable is used for the separator have I always to test on this?
>
> The old str_sep routine without regex was much clearer.
>
> regards
> Reimar
>
>

When dealing with regular expressions I normally escape all non-alphanumeric characters. Not all of them are special, but it's probably easiest to assume they are. It doesn't hurt to escape a character that is not special (at least in other languages).

Of course if you don't have a need for regular expressions, there is no need to use that keyword.

Tom
