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Subject: Re: STREGEX Help Please

Posted by [Vincent Sarago](#) on Mon, 19 Sep 2011 12:36:59 GMT

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Hi,

That should work, but you have to be sure, that the value you are looking for is 'alt' and not ' alt' or ' alt '.

Another thing,

" where(stregex(column\_header, '^alt\$',/boolean)) " can give '-1' if 'alt' is not found in column\_header !!!

From IDL8.0, ittviz has introduced the negative array indexing, so you have to be really careful with the where() function.  
(I don't know how GDL will work.)

It will be better to to :

```
test = where(stregex(column_header, '^alt$',/boolean), count)
if count ne 0 then alt = column_header[test] else message, 'No alt
Found'
```

Cheers,

Vincent

On 19 sep, 13:18, Rob <rl...@le.ac.uk> wrote:

```
> Hi,
>
> I'm trying to convert some IDL code into GDL and ran into the problem
> that GDL doesn't support STRMATCH which we were using extensively. It
> does however support STREGEX and I've just about got it working but
> wanted to check that I was doing it correctly.
>
> In IDL we had something like:
> alt=column_data[where(strmatch(column_header, 'alt'))]
>
> In GDL using stregex I thought the equivalent was: alt =
> column_data[where(stregex(column_header, 'alt',/boolean))]
>
> However, this introduced the problem that it also matched any strings
> containing alt anywhere within them (for example, "p_alt").
>
> I think the solution is to use anchors like so:
>
```

> alt = column\_data[where(stregex(column\_header, '^alt\$',/boolean))]  
>  
> This way, it'll match the string which is (and only is) what we're  
> trying to match.  
>  
> Have I got this right? It seems to work but I'm not 100% that it's  
> robust. Have I done anything stupid or missed an easier solution?  
>  
> Cheers

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