
Subject: Code cluttered with 'STRTRIM(variable,2)' ?
Posted by [Russ Welti](#) on Wed, 13 Sep 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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A nit that has plagued me since day 1 in IDL is:

What is the best way to formulate strings which contain variables' values without getting all cluttered up with `strtrim(variable,2)` ?? This really uglifies my code.

Example:

```
> msg=$
> 'Warning: '+strtrim(n_sizes,2)+' size combinations fitted against '+$
      strtrim(n_peaks,2)+' peak combinations means '+ $
      strtrim(n_sizes*n_peaks,2)+' individual curve fits will be done.'
> print,msg
```

I have played with `PRINT,STRING(FORMAT='( . . . )',<stuff>)`

but that is not really very nice to look at either and is a pain to maintain the format spec if the output changes slightly.

I guess possible solutions include defining a 'wrapper' for `strtrim`, like:

```
FUNCTION str,s
  return,strtrim(s,2)
END
```

Any thoughts? Am I missing an easy way?

I think the default, for a function called `stringTRIM`, should be to trim both ends, so at least I would not need to pass that pesky 2. ;)

```

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